

# Association of Washington Cities Emergency Management Summit

Basics of Emergency Management  
October 2025

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## Presenters

Steve Brooks – WA. Fire Chief’s Association  
Executive Director  
Fire Chief – Lacey Fire (ret.)



Heather Kelly – City of Kirkland  
Emergency Manager  
UAS Coordinator



Stacey McClain – WA. State Emergency  
Management Division  
Assistant Director of Operations,  
State Coordinating Officer,  
Governors Authorized Representative



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# Emergency Management Mission Areas

## Prevention

Efforts to avert disasters and emergencies that can be prevented through proactive measures.

## Mitigation

Long-term efforts to reduce disaster impacts and increase community resilience

## Preparedness

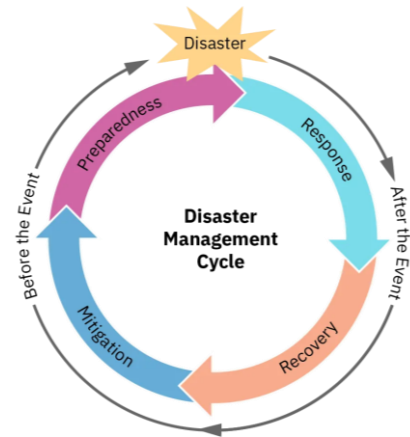
Planning, organizing, training, exercising, and equipping responders, agencies, and communities for effective emergency response.

## Response

Immediate actions during and after disasters, focused on saving lives, protecting property, and stabilizing critical community services.

## Recovery

Short, mid, and long-term efforts to rebuild and restore communities to a "new normal" post-disaster.



The five mission areas create a comprehensive approach to emergency management throughout all phases of a disaster.

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# Washington's Threats and Hazards



## Natural/Biological Hazards

- Wildfires, wildfire smoke, wildfire urban interface
- Extreme heat and cold
- Winter storms, wind, and flooding
- Landslides
- Earthquakes
- Volcanic eruptions
- Distant-source tsunamis
- Endemic, Pandemic, Viral Outbreak
- Animal disease

## Human-caused/Technological

- Radiological incidents
- Cyber attacks
- Unmanned Ariel Vehicle (UAV) attacks
- Civil unrest/demonstrations/protests
- Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA)
- Hazardous materials releases
- Nation-state hostile actions

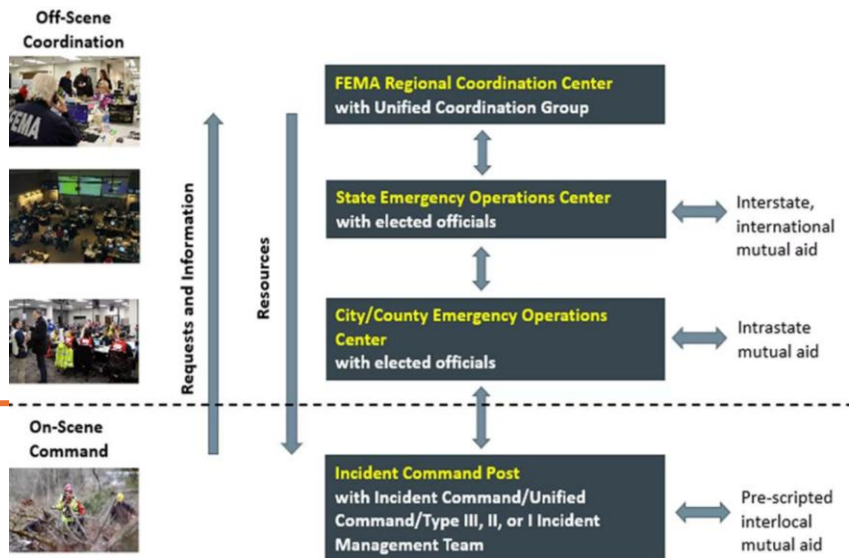
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## Real World Examples

Incident	Jurisdiction	Resources	Mission Type	Actions
Amtrak Derailment	Field – Pierce and Thurston Counties	Fire, Police, WSP, Military, Amtrak, NTSB, WSDOT, EMS, public transit,	Response and Recovery	Life safety, reunification, Hazmat, transportation disruption, fatalities
Cyber Intrusion	Local - Kirkland	IT Staff, Technical security contractors, legal assistance, FBI, EM, Human Resources, Communications	Continuity of Operations and Government	Protected City data and implemented hardened security practices while returning to operations
<b>SR 530 Flooding and Mudslide (Oso Landslide)</b>	Local- Snohomish County	All Sno County departments, Sheriff, SAR and USAR, IMTs, WSDOT, WA DOH, local and regional Fire, Police, and WSP, Navy, Boeing Fire Hazmat, USGS, WA DNR, private contractors	Response and Recovery	Performed search, rescue, and recovery, support to survivors, recovery and restoration of site, property reunification
Wildfire	State – Spokane County	Dept of Fish and Wildlife	Safety and Security	Patrolled evacuation areas to protect public safety and deter crime
Landslide	State – Makah Tribe	Dept of Health, Jefferson and Clallam County Public Health, local provider	Health and Medical	Arranged for operation of a temporary methadone clinic to serve isolated patients

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## Local, State, and Federal Integration



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# Where the magic happens



## **Emergency Operations/Coordination Center (EOC/ECC)**

A physical location for agencies to manage incident operations and consequences.

- Coordinate response actions
- Gather and disseminate information
- Provide and procure resource needs

## **Joint Information Center/System (JIC/JIS)**

A physical location (JIC) or virtual system (JIS) that manages public and media information related to an incident

- Develops coordinated accurate public messaging
- Disseminates information to the public and media (including translation as required)
- Responds to media inquiries and access to information and/or agency spokesperson



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# Emergency Management Authority

## Local Legislation

### Washington State

- RCW 38.52 Emergency Management
- RCW 43.06.220 (h)
- RCW 35.33.081
- WAC 118-04 Emergency Workers
- WA State Constitution Article XI, Section 11

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Stafford Act      Sandy Recovery Act 2013



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# Executive Leader

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Agency Administrator is the executive leader of a jurisdiction responsible for the incident. They delegate authority to the Incident Commander and/or Emergency Manager.

## Local

- Mayor, City Manager/Administrator, Commissioner, Executive

## State

- The Adjutant General – Major General Gent Welsh



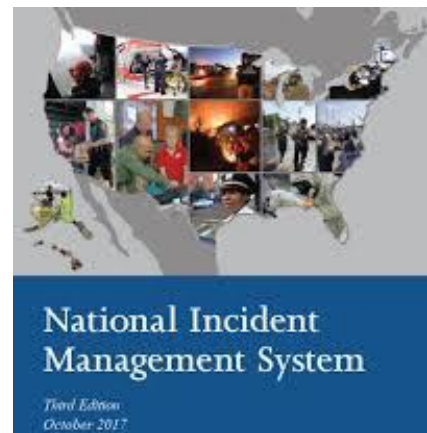
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# Foundation of Emergency Management

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As established by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
  - An approach to coordinating incident response and recovery across all levels of government, private sector, non-profits, and communities.
- Incident Command System (ICS)
  - A management approach used to stabilize an incident, save lives, and protect property and the environment while maintaining responder and resource safety and accountability.



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# Incident Command System (ICS)

The Incident Command System, or ICS, is a standardized all-hazards incident management concept used across the nation.

Allows users to adopt an organizational structure to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

- Incident/Unified Command (IC/UC)
- Agency Administrator



ICS Resources –

- Incident Management Teams (IMT)
- Specialty Teams – USAR, DMAT, IST

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## Incident Process



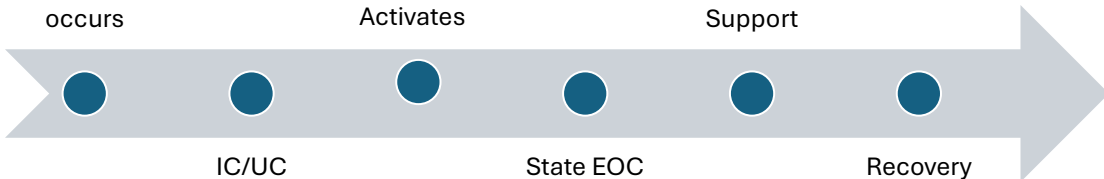
Incident occurs



Local EOC/ECC Activates



Federal Support



IC/UC On scene



State EOC Activates



Recovery



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# Proclamation of Emergency

- “The governor may, after finding that a public disorder, disaster, energy emergency, or riot exists within this state or any part thereof which affects life, health, property, or the public peace, proclaim a state of emergency in the area affected...”(RCW 43.06.010 (12))

- Orders are only effective in specified areas and for defined periods
- May require legislative action to ratify, extend, and/or terminate

## Emergency Manager Actions

- Implement emergency powers
- Request/procure assistance/ resources
- Activate agency/state emergency/disaster assistance programs
- Expend funds

# Emergency Powers

- **Reference**
- RCW 43.06.220 (h)
- RCW 38.52.070 (2)
- RCW 35.33.081
- WA State Constitution Article XI, Section 11

Broad Authority	Related to Operations	Related to Safety
<p>The governor can prohibit "such other activities as he or she reasonably believes should be prohibited to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace." (RCW 43.06.220 (h))</p> <p>The governor may issue emergency orders waiving or suspending "statutory obligations or limitations"</p> <p><b>Limitations</b></p> <p>Powers granted to another elected official</p> <p>First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly</p> <p>Conflict with other legislation</p>	<p>Budgets, appropriate and expenditure of funds, competitive bidding, publication of notice, employment of temporary workers</p> <p>Performance of public work</p> <p>Entering into contracts, incurring obligations, renting equipment, purchasing supplies and materials</p> <p>Reduction or waiver of fees, charges, or permits</p> <p>Adjustments to employee hours, recall, overtime, and vacations, use of volunteer workers</p>	<p>Imposing curfews, prohibiting individuals from being in public, and/or closure of public places, businesses</p> <p>Prohibiting gatherings of any size</p> <p>Regulating the sale or dispensing of alcoholic beverages</p> <p>Rationing or limiting the sale or distribution of fuel or other essential materials</p> <p>Restricting use of streets and highways, clearing of debris</p> <p>Suspension of specific activities (parking enforcement, animal control licensing, building construction, outdoor burning, etc.)</p>

# Presidential Disaster Declarations



When the state is faced with certain emergencies, the Governor may formally proclaim an emergency.

This typically occurs when multiple jurisdictions are impacted from an incident/event.



The state will then request a declaration of emergency from the federal government.

Specific eligibility and thresholds must be met in order to receive a Presidential Declaration.



Declaration engages various assistance types to include:

- Public Assistance
- Individual Assistance
- Hazard Mitigation

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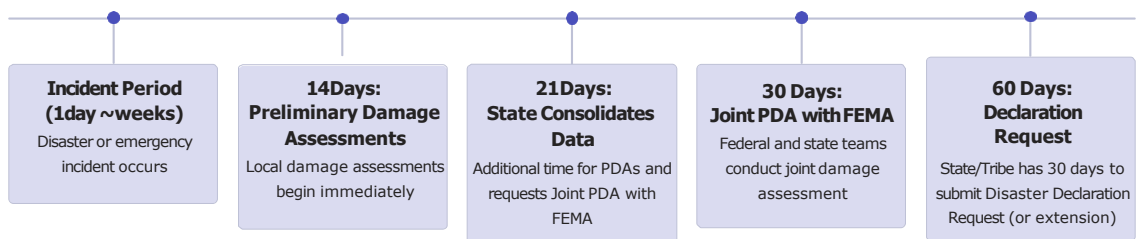
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# Presidential Declarations and Federal Resources

Access to *most* federal resources depends on Presidential declaration of "Emergency" or "Major Disaster." Some federal agencies have separate authorities and may provide assistance with or without a presidential declaration.

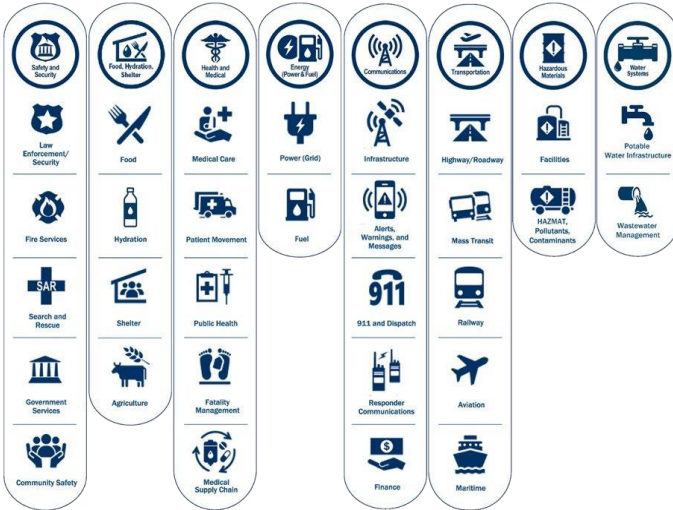
- ① **Local and Governor Proclaims Emergency**  
Governor must proclaim a state of emergency
- ② **Locals and State Exhausts Capabilities**  
The state must demonstrate it has used all its available resources and capabilities.
- ③ **Declaration for Assistance**  
The declaration can be for Public Assistance (Community Recovery) and/or Individual Assistance (Individual Recovery).

## Presidential Declaration Timeline



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# Community Lifelines



## Implementation Hierarchy

### Strategic Priorities

Overall disaster management goals set by executive leadership

### Operational Priorities (lifelines)

Essential services that must be stabilized to support life and safety

### Incident Objectives

Specific, measurable goals for the operational period

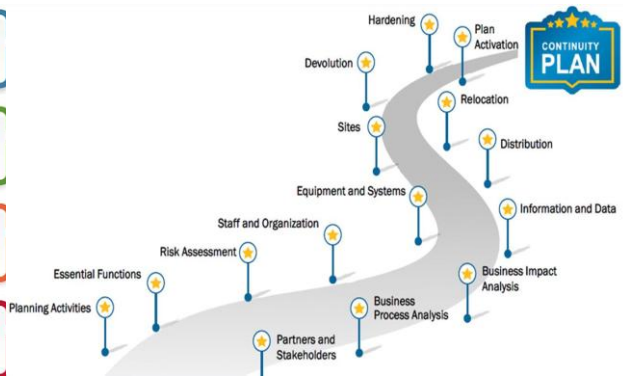
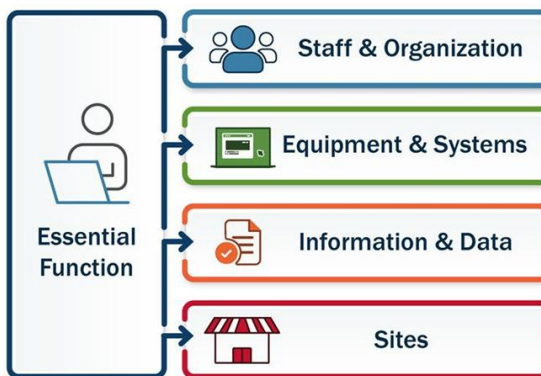
### Response Actions

Tactical activities performed by agencies to meet objectives

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# Continuity of Operations

Continuity of Operations is the ability of an agency to continue essential functions, provide essential services, and deliver core capabilities during a disruption to normal operations.



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# Leaders' Role and Homework (HW)



**Provide policy support during and after an incident**

HW – How do you do this and what are the rules i.e. Legal authorities and limits?



**Stay informed and share approved coordinated information**

HW – Where will you get this information and how will you disseminate it?



**Allocate funding and/or resources**

HW – What is the process for making funding available? Where does/can it come from?



**Build relationships with external agencies and community partners**

HW – Identify the people you need to know and confirm you have the right contact information. Do this often!



**Advocate for community and responder needs**

HW – Know how and who to turn to for support.



**Be personally prepared – Have a plan and supplies**

HW – As a leader you must be personally prepared if you intend to help others.



**Invest in resources: programs, people, supplies, and equipment in advance.**

HW – Identify existing capability, mutual aid, contracts, and agreements, and work to fill the gaps.



**Know your Emergency Manager!**

HW – Connect with your Emergency Manager to identify training and support opportunities.

# Wrap Up



Stacey McClain  
 Assistant Director for Operations  
 State Coordinating Officer (SCO)  
 Governors Authorized Representative (GAR)  
 Washington Emergency Management Division  
 Office: (253) 512-7071 | Cell: (253) 312-8291  
 Stacey.McClain@mil.wa.gov



Heather Kelly – Emergency Manager  
 City of Kirkland  
 Phone: 425-587-3670 Cell: 425-213-2317  
 Email: Hkelly@kirklandwa.gov



Steve Brooks - Executive Director  
 Washington Fire Chiefs  
 Phone: 360-352-0161 Cell: 360-239-8593  
 Email: sbrooks@washingtonfirechiefs.org