

Local Elected Officials' Guide to Emergency Operations



Presenters:

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Overview

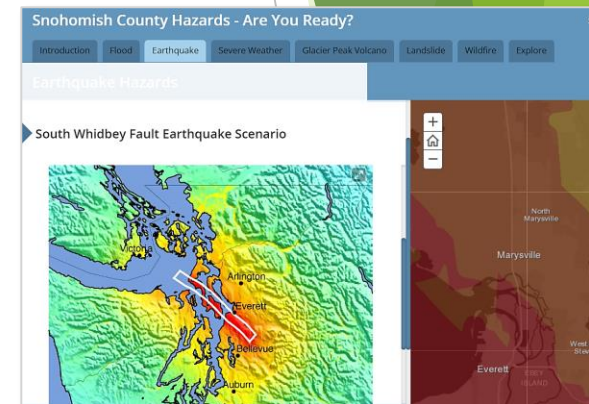
- ▶ All disasters are locally-driven events
- ▶ Local officials provide leadership and policy guidance, and should engage in preparedness efforts
- ▶ Local elected officials operate at the policy and strategic levels, and coordinate with local emergency managers and responders, who operate at the operational and tactical levels





The Role of Elected Officials *Before* a Disaster Occurs

- ▶ Make planning a priority
- ▶ Learn about emergency management and disaster assistance programs and processes
- ▶ Learn about the hazards that threaten your jurisdiction and what is being done to address them
- ▶ Provide policy direction for prevention/protection-related, response, recovery, and mitigation-related activities
- ▶ Encourage coordination and collaboration between the government and businesses
- ▶ Familiarize yourself with your jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- ▶ Encourage individual preparedness
- ▶ Participate in training and exercises
- ▶ Learn your legal authorities and responsibilities





The Role of Elected Officials *During* a Disaster Occurs

- ▶ Support and **work with your emergency management officials**
 - Facilitate communication with other agencies
 - Obtain assistance from other agencies
 - Declare a local state of emergency
 - Issue emergency orders
- ▶ **Understand the resource request process** and mutual aid options, and how your local emergency manager coordinates this process
- ▶ In coordination with your emergency manager:
 - Communicate with constituents and ensure a coordinated message
 - Ensure all messaging is accessible
 - Maintain situational awareness
 - Provide direction for response-related activities
- ▶ **Trust and empower your emergency management officials to make the right decisions**





The Role of Elected Officials *During* a Disaster Occurs

Declaring a Local Disaster

Pursuant to RCW 38.52.010 (9)(a), An “emergency or disaster” ... means an event or set of circumstances which:

- (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences; or
- (ii) reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor proclaiming a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.

A local disaster declaration may be advised when there is/are:

- ▶ **significant impacts** socially or economically on the residents within your jurisdiction, and/or
- ▶ situations threatens to **exhaust or overwhelm local resources** (personnel, equipment, materials, money, etc.), and/or
- ▶ any **protective actions** that may require the **evacuation of residents with special needs**, such as day care/school age children, elderly residents, people with mobility problems, hospitalized or institutionalized populations.



SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. _____ of the City/County of _____ empowers the Director of Emergency Services* to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said City/County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the City Council/County Board of Supervisors is not in session, and;

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services* of the City/County of _____ does hereby find, That conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said city/county, caused by _____ (fire, flood, storm, mudslides, torrential rain, wind, earthquake, drought, or other causes), which began on the _____th day of _____, 20____, and;

That these conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of said City/County, and;

That the City Council/County Board of Supervisors of the City/County of _____ is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout said City/County, and;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City/County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinance, and resolutions of this City/County, and, That this emergency proclamation shall expire in 7 days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the governing body of the City/County of _____

Dated: _____ By: _____
Director of Emergency Services*

Print Name _____
Address _____

*Insert appropriate title and governing body

Note: It may not be necessary for a city to proclaim a local emergency if the county has already proclaimed an emergency that applies to the entire geographic county area or for a specific area that includes the impacted city or cities.

This guide is not intended to be a legal opinion on the emergency proclamation process and related programs under state law. Local governments should consult their own legal counsel when considering proclaiming a local state of emergency.



The Role of Elected Officials *During* a Disaster Occurs

Declaring a Local Disaster

When a disaster is declared, it will allow:

- ▶ Activation of applicable local plans
- ▶ An increase in coverage related to liability for the jurisdiction; an important resource for legal considerations will be the city attorney
- ▶ Authorizes the provision of aid and assistance
- ▶ Activates mutual aid agreements to obtain resources and personnel from nearby local jurisdictions
- ▶ Request additional resources from the county and state, which would otherwise be unavailable.

Provisions for a declaration are covered in the **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)**.



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The Role of Elected Officials *After* a Disaster Occurs

- ▶ Understand available disaster assistance programs and application processes
- ▶ Help identify opportunities to build back better and mitigate future damage
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Support your community throughout the recovery process





Any

Questions?