

Emergency Support Function 14 Long-Term Community Recovery and Mitigation

ESF Coordinator:

Grant County Emergency Management

Primary Agencies:

Grant County Emergency Management
Grant County Assessor's Office
Grant County Public Works
Grant County Building Department

Support Agencies:

Chief Elected Officials
Grant County Department Heads
American Red Cross

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14 provides a framework for local government support to non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It is designed to enable community recovery from the long term consequences of a disaster, to provide for effective coordination for recovery and restoration tasks, including assessment of damages. This support consists of the available programs and resources of local departments and agencies to enable recovery and to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate risk from future incidents where possible.

B. Scope

The concepts in ESF 14 apply to appropriate local government departments and agencies following a disaster or an Incident of National Significance that affects the long term recovery of a community. Support and resources may vary depending upon the extent and type of incident and the potential for long-term consequences, and the need for restoration. ESF 14 will likely be activated for large scale events that require local government assistance to address impacts in areas such as housing, business, employment, and infrastructure. This ESF may also be activated for smaller scale events when necessary.

II. POLICIES

- A. Local government agencies provide recovery assistance to the affected areas while coordinating activities and assessments of need for additional assistance through the ESF #14 coordinator. For most events, these activities begin at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where staff work to gather data regarding the extent of damages.
- B. ESF #14 will not address economic policymaking and economic stabilization prior to any event.
- C. Local government support is based on the type, extent, and duration of the event and recovery period. Should the event exhaust local resources and mutual aid agreements, the State of Washington will be asked to provide assistance. Should the event exhaust State resources, the Federal government will be asked to provide assistance.
- D. Long-term community recovery and mitigation efforts are focused on permanent restoration with emphasis on the mitigation of future impacts of disaster where possible. The Grant County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, published separately, identifies mitigation actions to reduce the risks associated with potential losses within Grant County.
- E. When it is apparent that local jurisdictions will qualify for federal disaster relief, a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) process must be completed. Emergency Management leads the PDA effort with quick evaluations of affected areas normally accomplished by driving through the affected areas for assessment.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency or Disaster Conditions and Hazards

A natural or human-caused emergency or disaster may occur at any time, causing the need for documentation of the damage.

B. Planning Assumptions

If this ESF is activated, an emergency or disaster has occurred and may have caused significant damages. The lessons learned from the event can provide guidance for new mitigation strategies to be implemented in the Grant County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

ESF #14 provides the coordination methods for local government to:

1. Conduct preliminary and post event damage assessments, documentation, loss analysis and coordinate efforts to address long-term community recovery and mitigation issues.
2. Determine responsibilities for recovery activities and provide continuity of government and other involved organizations to ensure the follow through of recovery and hazard mitigation efforts.

B. Organization

1. **Grant County Emergency Management** is organized to provide for staff in the EOC in the event of disaster. It provides guidance to the involved primary and support agencies during and after the disaster to include long term recovery and mitigation.
2. **The Grant County Assessor's Office** can appraise properties and maintains records of property values. It also provides mapping and basic property information via its Global Information Services (GIS) staff.
3. **The Grant County Public Works Department** has heavy equipment and transportation which may assist with debris removal after a disaster has occurred.
4. **The Grant County Building Department** facilitates the application of loss reduction for the rebuilding of critical infrastructure by using building, fire, and other appropriate codes to mitigate potential losses in the future.

C. Procedures

1. Recovery and restoration operations begin at the EOC. Those operations are based on situation and Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs). If the assessments identify significant damage has occurred, local damage assessment staff make a recommendation to the Grant County Emergency Management Director concerning the appropriateness for requesting emergency assistance.
2. The Director of Grant County Emergency Management can provide PDAs to the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division. In rare instances, the effects of disaster are so dramatic that the need for a PDA is eliminated in certain areas. In those cases, state and federal inspectors begin verifying claims for Public and Individual Assistance as quickly as possible.
3. If a jurisdiction has an active Presidential Disaster Declaration, teams of federal and state inspectors working from a Disaster Field Office (DFO) may inspect damaged public facilities with a jurisdiction representative and determine what

aid, if any, may be due. Other damages suffered by individuals and businesses will be assessed for Individual Assistance when authorized.

4. The Chief Elected Official may direct the formation of the Recovery and Restoration Task Force (RRTF), which is a group who will serve as guidance to the Emergency Management Director on the continuation of recovery and restoration agendas such as contamination clean-up and control of adulterated food. If an RRTF is developed and activated by the Chief Elected Official, their first major task is to formulate a recovery and restoration plan. The team prioritizes efforts to restore critical infrastructure and adhere to reporting requirements from government authorities. The task force may need to identify alternating staff to cover various shift requirements.

D. Mitigation Activities (Long-Term Pre-Incident Planning and Operations)

The Grant County Department of Emergency Management ensures procedures, programs, and contact information is up to date. The department discusses lessons learned from events and exercises with other coordinating agencies such as County governments within Homeland Security Region 7, Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD), and Federal agencies if the event is an Incident of National Significance. The department also develops plans identifying agency participation based on the nature and size of the incident.

The Grant County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan serves as the official mitigation plan of Grant County and provides many strategies to reduce the risks to hazards associated with disasters. The Grant County Department of Emergency Management maintains this plan, which is available for use by the primary and support agencies and the general public.

E. Preparedness Activities (Prior to incident when notice has been given)

In coordination with other ESFs, coordinating, primary and support agencies ascertain vulnerable critical facilities as a basis for identifying recovery priorities. Predictive modeling software such as hazardous materials plume estimation software or HAZUS, may be used to assist with this process. The Grant County Department of Emergency Management maintains a log of critical facilities in Grant County which includes relevant information such as facility location, category, function, and contact information. The Grant County Assessor's Office keeps updated information on estimated property values, which can be readily accessed via electronically or manually through the departmental records.

F. Response Activities (Post-Event Planning and Operations)

Grant County Emergency Management gathers information from county departments and agencies to assess the scope and magnitude of social and economic impacts from the affected area. It enables the RRTF with the Chief Elected Official and facilitates hazard mitigation and recovery planning efforts. The department also encourages information sharing among agencies to coordinate early resolution of issues.

It maintains liaison with the State of Washington Emergency Management Division which identifies the appropriate State programs to support implementation of long-term community recovery plans and to cover gaps within the local authorities funding where feasible.

V. Responsibilities

ESF #14 Coordinator

The Grant County Department of Emergency Management conducts pre- and post-incident meetings to implement ESF #14 and coordinates the drafting and publication of operational plans. The department ensures participation from the primary and support agencies.

Primary Agencies

These agencies are responsible to lead the planning efforts in areas of agency expertise on an on-going basis. They identify collaboration needs with support agencies and facilitate interagency efforts, while ensuring action is taken to avoid the duplication of efforts.

Agency	Responsibilities
Emergency Management	Conducts and/or assigns appropriate County staff to complete Preliminary Damage Assessments. Leads local emergency management planning efforts and staffs the EOC when activated. Conducts and participates in exercises to practice various CEMP functions and other plans. Makes recommendations for restoring critical infrastructure.
Assessor's Office	Provides staff to assist with damage assessments. Determines the approximate value of property. Conducts GIS mapping services. Prepares damage assessment reports according to government requirements.
Public Works Department	Sends a representative to the EOC when necessary. Provides assistance with road engineering and transportation functions such as debris clearing and removal. Restores critical infrastructure for which the department is responsible. Provides trained staff to serve in these roles.
Building Department	Sends a representative to the field to assist with damage assessments. Inspects new and existing structures. Enforces building and fire code within the County and investigates the cause of fires within the County and with some incorporated jurisdictions by special arrangement.

Support Agencies

These agencies are responsible to lead the planning efforts in areas of agency expertise and provide assistance in coordination with other departments and agencies when appropriate.

Agency	Responsibilities
Chief Elected Officials	Provides one Chief Elected Official to the EOC to review and approve public service announcements. Directs the formation of the Recovery and Restoration Task Force (RRTF) with assistance from Grant County Emergency Management. Contacts State government when local resources are exhausted.
Department Heads	Sends representatives to the EOC as needed. Provides staff and resources to deliver recovery services to the public while minimizing the interruption of regular departmental duties.
American Red Cross	Provides short-term shelters, food, volunteers and other resources and sends a representative to the EOC if necessary.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The resources necessary to accomplish long and short term recovery will be determined by the situation, and established by the RRTF. Mitigation resources will be accessed and utilized as the situation allows.

VII. REFERENCES

see Appendix 2 of the Basic Plan

VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

see Appendix 1 of the Basic Plan