



Grant County EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Emergency Management in Grant County

Grant County has an operational emergency management program with a direct responsibility for the organization, administration and operation of the emergency management program for the County and fourteen incorporated cities and towns, and operation of the EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC). The county's Director of Emergency Management is the administrative head and subordinate to the Board of County Commissioners.

In the late 1970s the GRANT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES evolved from the former OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE. The emergency management responsibility was transferred from one organization to another, always with a greater emphasis to the parent organization. On July 1, 1996, the organization was finally established as a full time emergency management organization, broadening its scope for planning and coordination for all phases of disaster management — preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Currently an update for the original ordinance is proposed to adopt the program title of “Emergency Management”.

Responsibilities

Emergency Management draws its mandate from CHAPTER 38.52 RCW COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT requiring that Emergency Management prepare, maintain and implement policies and procedures relating to preparedness, response and recovery from emergencies and disasters in Grant County. CHAPTER 38.52 RCW requires that all counties must establish an emergency management program and cities and towns have an option to establish an independent program or adopt the county's program. All fourteen incorporated communities within the county are part of the county program.

Emergency Operations Center

Activated during large-scale emergencies or special events, the EOC is a central location for senior officials from city, county, state, and federal agencies, and relevant private entities to coordinate response efforts, make decisions about resource needs and distribution, and disseminate information. With the capability to support operations for multiple agencies, the EOC also serves as a clearinghouse for sharing information during emergencies. The building is supported by excellent audiovisual, communications and information technology systems.

Planning and Research

Emergency Management assists with the preparation, review, and enhancement of emergency preparedness programs, training exercises, and resource development for municipalities, school divisions, government departments and agencies, and the private sector.

Emergency Management also reviews and recommends amendments to emergency measures legislation and ensures that departmental, municipal and private sector emergency plans are consistent with existing legislation.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Emergency Management is responsible for maintaining the COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP). The CEMP is the linchpin in Emergency Management capacity to provide a coordinated and effective response to emergencies and disasters. It explains the local emergency response concept, emergency response structure, and the roles and responsibilities of departments and agencies responding to emergencies and disasters.

Training and Education

Emergency Management provides training and education in the form of courses, workshops, exercises, and conferences to local and county government officials, emergency response personnel, public interest groups and non-government representatives who would be tasked with principal emergency management responsibility in the event of an emergency or disaster.

The staff members of Emergency Management are active in the organizing committee for the annual WASHINGTON STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Conference, as well as supporting of the annual PARTNERS IN PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE.

Public Information

Emergency Management disseminates Public Information on matters relating to emergency preparedness, response and recovery by distributing educational brochures and other awareness materials to individuals, businesses, agencies and institutions. Our PIOs work closely with the media and also assist local emergency response agencies with handling media inquiries during out-of-the-ordinary incidents.

Emergency Response

Emergency Management assists with major emergencies and disasters through coordination of the disaster response process, including the coordination of local, state, federal and non-government agency resources to assist municipalities. Services provided to the municipalities include consulting, planning support, event activity; post emergency reports, and public information on response activities.

Public Assistance Program and Recovery

Emergency Management is responsible for the local administration and the systematization of recovery assistance programs.

The PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM enables local and state governments, special purpose districts, private non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes to recover from the immediate and long-term impacts of disasters. The program provides state and federal funds to local governmental agencies for a portion of the costs for the repair and restoration of damaged public facilities, as well as to reimburse the agencies for a portion of the costs associated with emergency work and debris removal due to the disaster.