

**KING COUNTY WASHINGTON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) 6
MASS CARE**

PRIMARY AGENCIES: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross
Salvation Army
King County Finance and Business Operations Division
Seattle-King County Department of Public Health
King County Department of Development & Environmental Services
All Other King County Departments

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6 is to define King County Government's roles and responsibilities in mass care services of shelters, emergency feeding, first aid, and disaster welfare information. King County, in cooperation with the American Red Cross (ARC) and other agencies, will develop and coordinate a system to provide mass care for citizens of unincorporated King County that are victims of disasters.

B. Scope

Mass Care in King County is a shared responsibility between the county, incorporated cities, the Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross, and other non-profit agencies such as the Salvation Army. The King County Parks and Recreation Division is the lead agency for the County in coordinating support for mass care activities and shelters. Incorporated Cities in King County have responsibility to coordinate their own mass care shelters using city assets, or to coordinate with the King County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the placement of mutually supported shelters.

II. POLICIES

A. It is the policy of the government of King County to provide the emergency management organization and resources to minimize the loss of life, protect public property and the environment in unincorporated King County. Additionally, King County will provide support to other jurisdictions within King County to the maximum extent possible depending on the disaster conditions.

B. Incorporated jurisdictions will perform emergency management functions within their jurisdictional boundaries as mandated by RCW 38.52.070.

C. The American Red Cross will provide staff, supplies, and shelters as disaster conditions dictate and resources allow, in accordance with the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-288, as amended by the Stafford Act of 1988).

D. King County's ESF-6 will be implemented based on the impacts of major natural, or technological disaster events on King County and its incorporated cities. The King County Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division is the primary county agency for mass care activities. The King County EOC will make decisions regarding the activation of shelters that will be managed by the Parks and Recreation Division, Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross, and selected cities and non-profit agencies.

E. Appropriate federal, state, and local jurisdiction, voluntary agency, and private sector resources will be used as available.

F. Mass care shelters are temporary in nature and are designed for people displaced as a result of emergency incidents or disasters. All mass care and shelter services will attempt (but not guarantee), to meet current requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Services will be provided without regard to economic status or racial, religious, political, ethnic, or other affiliation.

G. Disaster Welfare Information is provided by the American Red Cross (see ESF-8). The listing of event related deaths will be limited to officially confirmed fatalities.

H. Shelters for pets and livestock may be activated if time, resources, and staff are available from local veterinary and volunteer animal care organizations. Pets and livestock shelters will be separated from shelters for citizens.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

King County is vulnerable to all of the natural and technological disaster events that are detailed in the King County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA). Historically, disasters in King County tend to have cumulative impacts that disrupt utility, communications, medical, transportation, and food service systems at the same time. Because of those impacts, emergency response efforts can be seriously reduced. The movement of disaster supplies and service providers, emergency workers, and volunteers can be impeded. Professional emergency responders may be unable or delayed in reaching their assigned organizations due to injury, death, or family problems.

There will be a requirement for shelter sites for hundreds to thousands of people that are impacted by the disaster. Many will be separated from their families due to impassible transportation routes and gridlock.

B. Planning Assumptions

The local and regional utilities, communications, lifelines, medical and transportation systems and networks will sustain damage. Disaster response and recovery activities will be difficult to coordinate.

Public, private and volunteer organizations, and the general public will have to utilize their own resources and be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days, possibly, longer.

No single agency or organization will be able to satisfy all emergency resource requests during a major emergency or disaster.

A partnership approach will be needed between public, private, and volunteer agencies in order to provide sheltering for large-scale disaster events in King County.

Cities in King County will provide their own shelters using city staff, resources, and facilities.

Shortages of emergency response personnel will exist creating a need for auxiliary fire, police, search and rescue, emergency medical, transit, public works, utilities, and shelter manager personnel. Private sector support will be needed to augment disaster response and recovery efforts.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

Requests for shelters will be coordinated through the King County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) following a major disaster impacting on King County. Shelter requests will be prioritized and coordinated by the EOC Health and Human Services Group representatives consisting of the Parks and Recreation Division, ARC, Salvation Army, Seattle-King Department of Public Health, and selected organizations as needed. During small local disasters when the King County EOC is not activated, the Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) will provide shelter and mass care services coordinated through the chapter headquarters, as appropriate to their operational capacity.

When the King County EOC is activated, placement, coordination, operations, and support of shelters will be a cooperative effort between the County, cities, the Red Cross and selected social service agencies. The Parks and Recreation Division will designate shelter coordinators to staff the King County EOC during activations, and be primary agency in King County government for mass care.

When a mass care shelter is set up during a major disaster event, a team approach will provide needed support:

- Location will be determined by the King County EOC representatives. If possible King County park sites will have park staff representatives on location, while the shelter is open.
- Shelter Managers will be chosen by either the Red Cross or the jurisdiction that has staff trained by the Red Cross in shelter management.
- Health inspections will be provided by Seattle-King County Department of Public Health.
- Facility inspections by King County DDES.
- Security will be provided by the police organization that supports the geographical area where the shelter is located, to include vehicle parking.
- Food service by ARC, Salvation Army, or other selected organizations.
- Crisis Counseling by King County Department of Community & Human Services as the lead agency, with the support of the Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross and selected local social service agencies.
- Supplies such as water, sanitation, generators, etc. from public agencies and private vendors.
- Communications support from amateur radio organizations.
- Trained support staff and equipment may be supplied by the King County Parks and Recreation Division.

B. Organization:

The King County EOC Health and Human Services Group will coordinate the placement, opening, and support of shelters and mass care activities.

C. Procedures:

The Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross maintains procedures for the opening, and management of shelters. Procedures for identifying King County parks that can be used for shelters are maintained by Parks and Recreation Division EOC representatives; All shelters opened and managed by King County will be in accordance with American Red Cross standards. All procedures for support of shelters are maintained by the appropriate support agencies.

V. Responsibilities:

A. Primary Agency:

The King County Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for providing mass care that comprises shelters, feeding, and emergency first aid in unincorporated King County. Partnerships will be utilized between King County and incorporated cities when appropriate.

The King County Parks and Recreation Division will provide:

- Representatives in the King County EOC to lead the Mass Care team (ARC, Salvation Army, County parks property, equipment, and personnel to set up and manage shelters).
- Representatives in the EOC to manage the Food and Water Planning Group (see ESF-11 Food and Water).

B. Support Agencies:

The Seattle-King Chapter of the American Red Cross support may include:

- Representatives in the King County EOC for coordination of shelter requests as part of the Health and Human Services Team.
- Mass care for small emergencies or localized events not requiring activation of the King County EOC.
- Initial resources (staff, supplies, locations) to provide mass care shelters, feeding, and emergency first aid during large disaster events;

The Salvation Army is responsible for providing resources and staff for emergency food service supporting shelters and responders, if resources permit.

King County departments are responsible for supporting the Parks and Recreation Division with specialty resources for shelters as needed. Requests will be coordinated through the EOC.

VI. Resource Requirements:

Each participating organization will provide personnel for 24-hour operations when the EOC is activated. Shelter supplies will be coordinated by the EOC Health and Human Services Group.

VII. References:

Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
American Red Cross Regulations 3000, 3030
King County Emergency Management Plan, Basic Plan
King County Parks and Recreation Division Emergency Operations Plan.

VIII. Terms and Definitions: See Appendix 4 Definitions

AGENCY APPROVAL:

DATE:

King County Department of Natural Resources
and Parks

Seattle-King Chapter, American Red Cross