

**SUPPORT ANNEX D**

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

**ANNEX COORDINATOR:**

Emergency Management

**PRIMARY AGENCY:**

Board of County Commissioners

**SUPPORT AGENCY:**

Emergency Management Council and member jurisdictions:

Thurston County  
City of Olympia  
City of Tumwater  
City of Lacey  
City of Yelm  
City of Tenino  
City of Rainier  
Town of Bucoda  
Chehalis Tribe  
Nisqually Indian Tribe

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. Purpose

Establish a process for making joint policy decisions during emergencies that affect more than one jurisdiction. The goal is to make consistent decisions between jurisdictions that lead to timely, coordinated and efficient actions during and after emergencies.

B. Scope

This plan applies to joint policy decision-making situations in the event of an emergency. The plan is focused on, but not limited to, inter-governmental coordination among the jurisdictions that have entered into the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Thurston County Emergency Management Council.

## II. POLICIES

None.

## III. SITUATION

### A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

This plan addresses incidents that cross political boundaries and affect multiple jurisdictions.

### B. Planning Assumptions

1. The process outlined in this plan may be used when key policy decisions could affect residents, property, and/or the economies of more than one jurisdiction within Thurston County.
2. Joint policy decisions may not contradict jurisdictions' constitutional or legal responsibilities.
3. This plan does not replace or supercede any contracts, agreements, or memorandums of understanding that already exist between the jurisdictions.
4. The jurisdictions involved in the implementation of this plan will not relinquish any of their own legal authority to make decisions and act in their community's best interest during emergencies.
5. Each party shall be responsible for its own wrongful or negligent acts or omissions, or those of its officer, agent, or employees, and shall indemnify, defend, and hold the other parties harmless from any such liability.
6. Signatories to the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Thurston County Emergency Management Council will comply with that agreement.
7. Joint decisions will focus on broad policy-oriented and strategic issues, not specific operational activities.
8. The nature of emergencies means jurisdictions may need to make decisions quickly. Individual jurisdictions should be prepared to ratify joint policy decisions at the earliest opportunity.
9. Under extreme circumstances, decisions may be made even if all affected jurisdictions cannot be present. The continuity of government provisions of the law will be observed.
10. Making joint policy decisions during an emergency may be difficult at times because of differing legal mandates and diverse operational goals of jurisdictions.

## IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. General

In the event that an emergency affects residents, property, or the economies of more than one jurisdiction, the jurisdictions may create a “Joint Policy Team” as follows:

1. The need for a policy decision or joint action with potential cross-boundary impact will likely be identified by one or more of the member jurisdictions of the Emergency Management Council (EMC) of Thurston County.
2. Each jurisdiction affected by the emergency may provide a representative to the Joint Policy Team. The representatives will be either elected officials or their designees who are duly authorized to make decisions on behalf of their jurisdiction.
3. The Joint Policy Team will, to the extent possible, meet in person so that decisions can be made quickly among all members. However, teleconferencing, telephone calling, or other forms of real-time communication may be used instead when necessary.
4. Decisions made by the Joint Policy Team may have to be ratified by the elected body of affected jurisdictions.
5. Each jurisdiction will be responsible for executing and monitoring joint policy decisions within their own jurisdictions.

### B. Organization

This plan can be implemented throughout the four phases of emergency management. Any combination of jurisdictions, encompassing a diverse and variable geographic region, may be part of the composition of the Joint Policy Group during an emergency response or recovery. However, the EMC is the existing forum for intergovernmental cooperation during the preparedness and mitigation phases.

1. Response and Recovery Phase. During the response and recovery phase, the Joint Policy Team may make decisions to include, but not limited to:

- a. Joint statements or official declarations, including special warnings, instructions, statements, or other emergency public information.
- b. Evacuation orders.
- c. Reentry policies.
- d. Curfew or the restriction of movement.
  - (1). Time limits on when residents may access identified emergency areas.
  - (2). Long-term closure of an emergency scene or region to unauthorized personnel.

- (3). Long-term closure of streets and roads to unauthorized traffic.
- e. Regulations or allocation of essential goods and services.
  - (1). Impressing (including seizing) necessary items for use during an emergency. (Owners of the items would be compensated, as provided in RCW 38.52.110).
  - (2). Encouraging retail and service establishments to voluntarily resist increasing the price of certain essential goods (anti-price gouging measures).
  - (3). Establishing mandatory price-stabilization measures to ensure necessary items are distributed equitably among residents. Examples include: food, water, heating fuels, shelter repair materials, and other goods needed to ensure health and safety of residents.
- f. Prioritization of response and recovery resources in the most effective and efficient manner.
- g. Enforcement of isolation or quarantine orders by the Public Health Officer.
- 2. Preparedness Phase. Joint preparedness phase activities include meetings of the EMC on a recurring schedule, an annual joint preparedness exposition, semi-annual seminars for executives, the establishment of ad hoc subcommittees, and the creation of periodic work plans to accomplish joint objectives.
- 3. Mitigation Phase. Mitigation phase activities include the development and implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region through joint mitigation planning efforts.

## **V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Elected Officials for affected jurisdictions
  - 1. Support, and provide guidance for, the process by which joint decisions are made among jurisdictions during an emergency.
  - 2. Approve legislation necessary to adopt or ratify joint policy decisions made under this process.
  - 3. Serve or appoint a designee to serve on the Joint Policy Team.
- B. Emergency Management Jurisdictions
  - 1. Continue to participate in the EMC of Thurston County as a way to maintain working relationships and share information.
  - 2. Identify a facility as a central coordination point for the Joint Policy Team.
  - 3. Work cooperatively to launch the joint policy-making process outlined in the plan, including assembling the Joint Policy Team. Provide coordination and support to the team.

4. To expedite joint decision-making, develop decision matrix models during the pre-incident phase, which could be used during actual incidents.

## **VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

Maintenance of a multiple jurisdictional fund to resource the intergovernmental activities involved in the implementation of this plan.

## **VII. REFERENCE AND SUPPORT PLANS**

- A. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 39.34 Interlocal Cooperation Act
- B. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.52 Emergency Management
- C. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Thurston County Emergency Management Council

## **VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**EMC** – Emergency Management Council. An organization of the county, cities, towns, and tribes created to coordinate for mutual advice and discussion regarding emergency management.

**Joint Policy Team** – A group comprised of membership from multiple jurisdictions that collaborate to make policy decisions that may affect more than one political subdivision.

**RCW** – Revised Code of Washington.

## **IX. ATTACHMENTS**

None.