



From 1998 – 2001, the Regional Disaster Planning Task Force, comprised of representatives of private and non-profit organizations, local governments and various discipline interests (for emergency services and public works) attended planning and workgroup meetings.

The Regional Disaster Plan was developed as a unique "mutual aid agreement" that establishes the framework to allow public, private and nonprofit organizations an avenue to efficiently assist one another during a disaster through:

- a plan that addresses organizational responsibilities;
- an agreement that addresses legal and financial concerns; and
- support documents that address specific operational elements of any disaster (transportation, health and medical services, public information, communications, etc.)

In January 2002, the first dissemination of the Regional Disaster Plan package was sent out to approximately 500 elected officials and organization directors with public, private and nonprofit organizations in King County. They were invited to adopt and sign-on to the Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations in King County, Washington which allows cross-disciplinary sharing of resources during disasters in the King County region. To date, there are over 140 organizations signed-on to the Regional Disaster Plan.

The Regional Policy Committee was briefed almost annually 2001 - 2008 regarding additional support documents that were added to the Regional Disaster Plan and special concerns committee members had regarding public health issues during a disaster, planning for a potential pandemic influenza and development of the homeland security strategic plan.

Last year, in 2011, the RPC was briefed on efforts at the time streamline and 'clean up' the Regional Disaster Plan. The Omnibus Legal and Financial Agreement, which is critical in the event of a future disaster, was to be retained and not be changed. King County and the Regional Disaster Planning Task Force was working on updating the Basic Plan, updating the Direction and Coordination Appendix to reference the recent Regional Policy MOU (see below), and eliminating redundant references in the Emergency Support Function sections.

### **King County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan**

King County completed its update to its Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) in February 2011. This plan is for use by elected and appointed County officials, and King County government department directors, managers and staff in mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. This plan is a product of the coordinated planning efforts between the King County Office of Emergency Management, County departments, emergency management representatives from various political jurisdictions, and selected private and nonprofit sector interests.

The CEMP is intended to ensure the continued operation and continuity of King County government and its functions (including provision of services ranging from transit to solid waste disposal) during and after emergencies or disasters.

### **Regional Policy Memorandum of Understanding**

On March 4, 2011 the mayors of four cities in the Green River Valley signed a new non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the King County Executive. A motion urging additional cities to enter into similar agreements was passed by the Council in August 2011 (**Attachment 1**). These cities and the county had been working together closely over the last several years in preparation for potential flooding related to the Howard Hanson dam. The MOU is intended to memorialize decision-making protocols and processes to coordinate response and recovery in the

event of any type of regional disaster. This MOU is currently entered into by the cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton and Tukwila and King County – but the Executive has since then negotiated MOUs with nine other cities and currently negotiating MOUs with tribal governments to share resources and coordinate responses.

### **Framework for a Recovery Plan**

Emergency management planning staff are currently working on a framework for a ‘recovery plan’ that should be substantially completed by June. Recent disasters in other parts of the nation have exposed the limitations of most local planning documents regarding how a region will work together to recover after a disaster. This plan is intended to provide a framework for protocols and decision-making to restore functionality following a disaster. This plan will be tested this September with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) facilitating exercises. King County is piloting this effort for FEMA.

### **Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) Assessment**

King County has retained a consultant, GeoComm, to do an assessment of the current PSAP configuration and to recommend the optimum PSAP configuration for moving forward into the next generation of the 911 system. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012. The committee will be briefed on why and how the consultant is conducting the assessment. Committee members may recall a briefing in 2011 regarding the need to move to the next generation of the 911 system so that it can handle calls from land lines and mobile devices and other improvements to ensure timely dispatch of emergency assistance.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Motion 13531 regarding MOUs for service provision and emergency management

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**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**May 17, 2012**

**Motion 13531**

**Proposed No.** 2011-0339.1

**Sponsors** Ferguson and Lambert

1           A MOTION urging jurisdictions throughout King County  
2           to jointly enter into a memorandum of understanding for  
3           the continuation of essential public services, incident  
4           management operations and support activities, after a  
5           regional emergency.

6           WHEREAS, the mission of King County's office of emergency management is to  
7           provide leadership and high quality services that improve the safety of the citizens of the  
8           county, and fulfillment of the mission includes working with regional partners to develop  
9           and implement countywide strategies for coordinated emergency planning, response and  
10          recovery, and

11          WHEREAS, political subdivisions, and tribes, with territory in geographic King  
12          County are vulnerable to numerous emergency hazards, including earthquakes, flooding,  
13          pandemics and terrorism, and

14          WHEREAS, an emergency caused by a hazard could occur at any time with little  
15          or no warning, and

16          WHEREAS, such an emergency could cause numerous casualties, fatalities,  
17          displaced persons, property loss, damage to the environment and disruption of essential  
18          private and public services across multiple jurisdictions, and

19           WHEREAS, such an emergency would require prolonged incident management  
20 operations and support activities among multiple jurisdictions to coordinate policy  
21 decision making in the event the jurisdictions are affected by such an emergency, and

22           WHEREAS, in the event of an emergency, affected jurisdictions should consider  
23 a regional approach of incident management in collaboration with affected jurisdictions,  
24 with each jurisdiction implementing policy decisions in a coordinated manner with other  
25 affected jurisdictions during emergency response and recovery activities, and

26           WHEREAS, the Green River valley cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton and Tukwila,  
27 along with the county, have signed a model memorandum of understanding for  
28 coordinated policy decision making during an emergency, and

29           WHEREAS, the county recognizes the benefits of signing such a memorandum of  
30 understanding as strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing the coordination of  
31 policy decision making during an emergency, and

32           WHEREAS, the memorandum of understanding is not binding and imposes no  
33 enforceable obligations upon jurisdictions, and it is not intended to restrict the authority  
34 of any party to act independently and, should a situation arise where jurisdictions cannot  
35 reach a decision by consensus, any jurisdiction may make its own decision, and

36           WHEREAS, a joint memorandum of understanding provides for each party to  
37 perform emergency management functions, emergency response, and recovery within its  
38 jurisdiction, and

39           WHEREAS, a joint memorandum establishes a framework for two or more  
40 jurisdictions to coordinate policy decision making in the event they are affected by an  
41 emergency;

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

43 All jurisdictions in King County are urged to enter into a memorandum of  
44 understanding for the continuation of essential public services, incident management  
45 operations and support activities, during and after a regional emergency.

46

Motion 13531 was introduced on 7/25/2011 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 8/15/2011, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Dunn and Mr.  
McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None