

City of Seattle

Emergency Management Overview

Seattle City Council
Public Safety Committee

February 25, 2025



City of Seattle

Office of Emergency Management

SEATTLE
CITY HALL



City of Seattle

What is Emergency Management?

Emergency management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters.

How does this work?

- Emergency Management focuses on preparedness, mitigation, response, & recovery functions. **OEM facilitates this work.**
- Emergency Management is a component of public safety that supports first responders during a disaster.

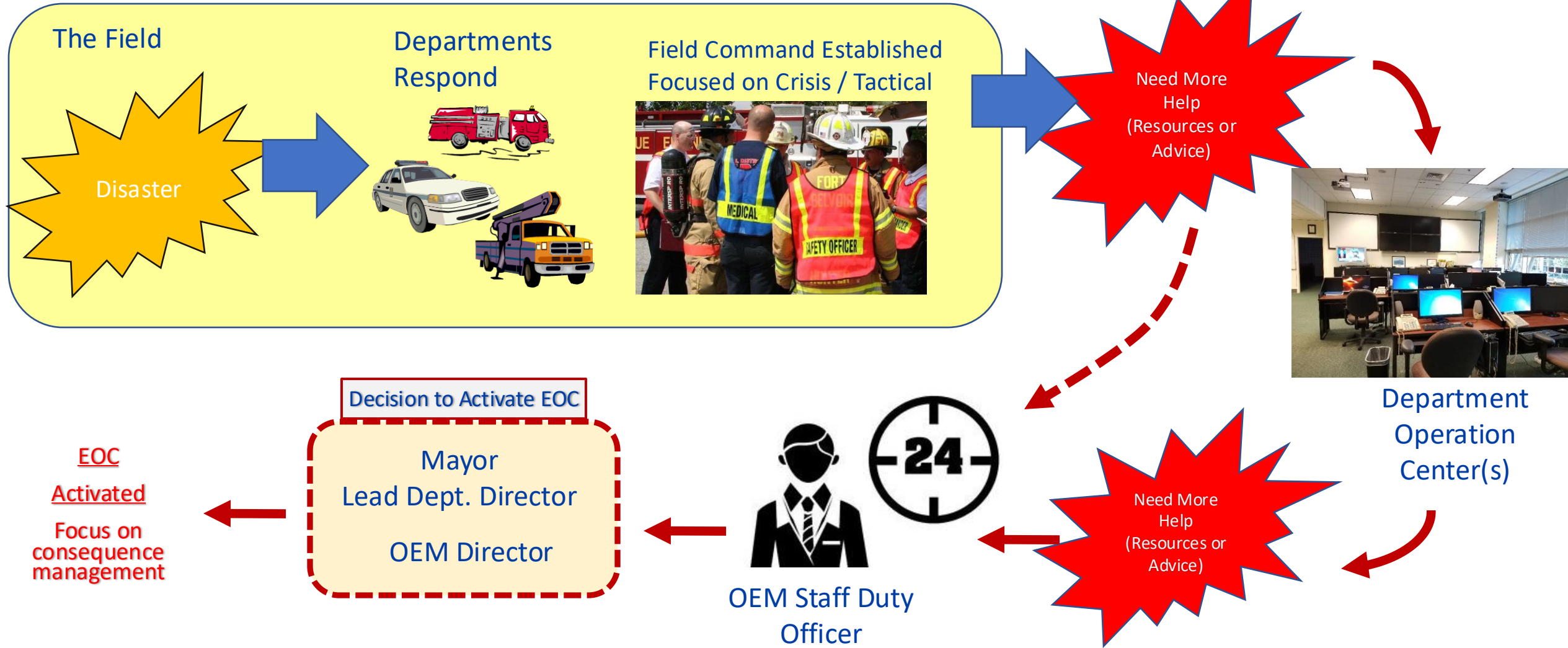


Who Comes to the EOC?

- City Department Representatives
- Regional partners: KC Metro, PHSKC, KCRHA, KC OEM, NWS
- Department & regional reps train and exercise with OEM on a continual basis.



Example: Incident Response to EOC Activation



Bomb Cyclone Response

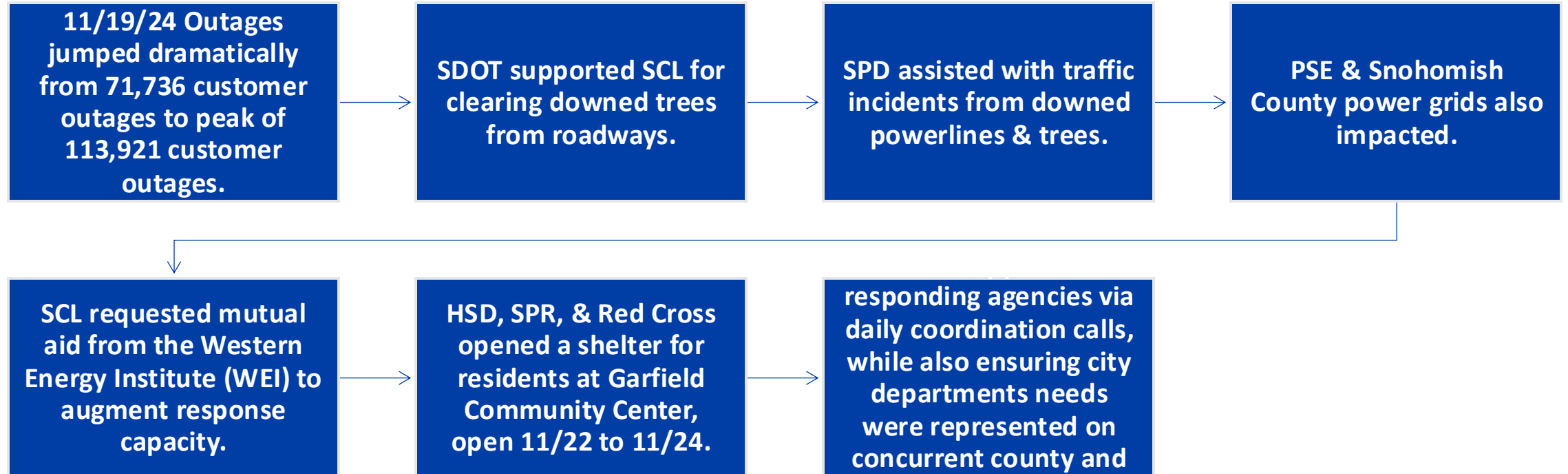
- November 18, 2024: NWS High Wind Warning
- **Seattle City Light was the lead department** – threat to Seattle power structure
- SCL & SPU began sharing emergency plans & preparations Nov. 18 (day before incident)
- Coordination via OEM Teams channel for all city depts & external partner coordination



Photo: AP News



Bomb Cyclone Response (continued)



City Departments & Regional Partners Engaged in Bomb Cyclone Response

- American Red Cross
- CARE/911
- Finance & Administrative Services
- King County Regional Homelessness Authority
- King County Office of Emergency Management
- Human Services Department
- Northwest Healthcare Response Network
- Public Health, Seattle & King County
- Seattle City Light
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Seattle Fire Department
- Seattle Mayor's Office
- Seattle Office of Emergency Management
- Seattle Parks & Recreation
- Seattle Police Department
- Seattle Public Libraries
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Seattle Information Technology Department
- UW Medicine



Community Engagement

Community Safety Ambassador program - 27,000 community members to date.

- CSA's (vendors) currently teach disaster skills classes in 13 different languages
- CSA's currently funded by a UASI grant that ends in July 2025.
- County EMS grant – only for CPR, Stroke, 911 education

Disaster Skills training for the public – scheduled & requests

- Stop the Bleed Program.
- Disaster Preparedness Classes- in person and virtual options.
- Seattle Public Schools Partnership.

Current Education & Outreach Team – 2 positions

- Lost OEM Community Engagement Coordinator position 2025

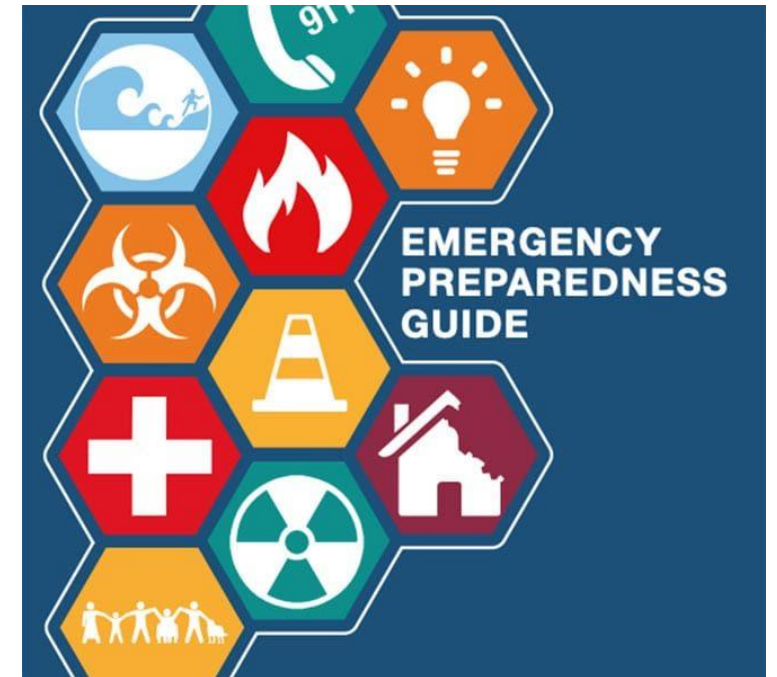
Gaps

- Funding to increase number of CSA vendors (# of languages increased)
- Ability to reach more residents with additional OEM Educ/Outreach staff



Public Education & Outreach

- Disaster skills training
 - Staff & CSAs
- Social media
- OEM Website
- Preparedness materials (events, requests)
- Volunteers assist with training
- AlertSeattle
- Gaps
 - Additional staff & CSAs to teach skills
 - Marketing resources



Seattle City Light Emergency Management



SCL Emergency Management Team



Brittany M. Barnwell
Emergency Manager



Brendan Armstrong
Workplace Logistics Director



Incident Response Priorities

1. Life Safety
2. Emergency Services
3. Customer & Residents



Training & Exercise Plan - All Hazard

- **Incident Command System Training**
 - Basic Level Training- All Employees
 - Incident Commander Training
 - Section Leader Training
 - Unit Leader Training
- **Functional Exercise**
- **Full-Scale Exercise**



Public Information & Resources

[Preparing for an Outage - City Light | seattle.gov](#)



1. Take an inventory



2. Stay Informed

- Sign up for [Alert Seattle](#),
- Monitor [weather reports](#) or sign up for [weather alerts](#),
- Bookmark [City Light Outage Map](#)



Public Information & Resources



3. Stock up on or install helpful tools and devices



4. Check the outside of your home



5. Plan ahead

- [Build a kit](#)

Other programs

- [Life Support Equipment Program](#)
- [Generator Safety Information](#)



Seattle Public Utilities Emergency Management

SPU Emergency Management - The Team

- Chad Buechler, Program Manager
- Michael Godfried, Planning Coordinator
- Eric Autry, Training and Exercise Coordinator
- Ty Barrett, Telecommunications and Logistics Coordinator



Incident Response Priorities

SPU's Priorities (Incident Management):

1. Life Safety/Public Health
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property/Environment
4. Public Trust

SPU Priorities (Operational)

- Staff Accountability
- Fire Flow
- Water Storage
- Damage Assessment
- Critical Resource Allocation among the utilities



Logistics and Telecommunications

- PSERN Radio Network
- Community Sandbag Program
- Emergency Supply Containers
- Emergency Water Distribution
- Support Materials like Emergency Contact Cards
- GETS/WPS Administration (95 Subscribers)
- Emergency Logistics Plan (Staff Support and Resource Management)



Training, Exercise, Outreach, and Engagement

Training

- Incident Command System, Radio Training, Preparedness Workshops for Staff

Exercises

- Small-scale(Water Main Break)
- Large-scale Exercises (Dam Failure)
- After-Action/Continuous Improvement Program

Outreach and Engagement

- Emergency Drinking Water Storage (1 gallon/person/day for 2 weeks), [UW Resilience Hackathon](#)
- Emergency Sanitation: [Video](#)
- Seattle Community Emergency HUBS, Infrastructure Webinars, Community Events
- Social Media Engagement: Recent Winter Weather campaign



SPU Emergency Management Leads Tolt Functional Exercise



SDOT Emergency Preparedness



City of Seattle

SDOT Emergency Management

Patti Quirk, M.A. Security Studies
Emergency Management Program
Director



City of Seattle

SDOT's Mission Essential Functions

- Maintain key arterial and waterway operations
- Mitigate hazards in the right of way (ROW)
- Issue permits authorizing use of the ROW
- Disseminate critical transportation information



SDOT Incident Management Team priorities

1. Life safety and public health
2. Incident stabilization
3. Environmental and property preservation
4. Public trust (public information)

SDOT uses these priorities to prepare for *and* respond to incidents



Materials & Training

Incident Command System - All Hazards

- IMT training not dependent on technology
- Paper copies of ICS forms in various locations
- Train to specific plans winter weather, post-earthquake damage assessments, not dependent on technology



Public Information

- Encourage **preparation** on website, blog, and social media streams.
- Work with community groups to distribute handout in many languages.
- Translate public service announcements and distribute to multicultural news outlets.
- Coordinate public messaging with regional partner agencies.

為冬季天氣做好準備



幫助您的鄰居。



注意保暖。為寒冷天氣做好準備。



準備好除雪工具用品。



準備好您的急救和應急用品。



熟悉街道清除積雪路線。



注意天氣預報。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE



訪問
seattle.gov/winterweather
了解更多信息



Prepare for Winter Weather

How to prepare for storms, help neighbors, and keep sidewalks clear



Getting Around

Travel tips for getting around in winter weather



Snow Plow Routes

See our planned routes and real-time map



SDOT is Prepared

Learn how we prepare and plan for winter weather



72-hour Alert Seattle messaging*

- Winter Weather – check travel conditions before leaving home, Severe weather stay off the roads
- Earthquake – stay off the roads and avoid bridges until inspected
- Cyber Event/Power outage – reduce travel speeds and treat all intersections as a four-way stop

*If the Joint Information Center is activated all city messaging managed by JIC

