



Seattle Office of Emergency Management

November 24, 2015

To: Councilmember Harrell
Seattle City Council Public Safety Committee

From: Director Barb Graff
Office of Emergency Management

Subject: Update of Emergency Plans

Comprehensive Plan Suite

The City's emergency management program has been guided over the years by a series of major plans which are reviewed and updated on a regular cycle. This year, the Office of Emergency Management created a new structure for those plans.

Replacing the former Seattle Disaster Readiness and Response Plan (last updated in 2012) is one overarching Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) which encompasses:

- Base Plan
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis
- Disaster Recovery Framework
- Seattle All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

Three of those plans have been updated this past year and are ready for Council adoption: the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and All-Hazards Mitigation plan. The Disaster Recovery Framework was recently completed and will be brought to Council early in 2016. The Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis is due for update in 2017.

The City of Seattle Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is a suite of plans that together define the doctrine and strategies on how the City will prevent, prepare for, mitigate the impacts of, respond to, and recovery from disasters. The plans make up the foundation of the City emergency management program and

inform City departments and stakeholders as to their roles in collaboratively managing the consequences of disasters to our community. These emergency plans are a testament to the research, collaboration, and partnership building necessary to achieve the best possible outcomes in trying circumstances.

CEMP Base Plan

The CEMP Base Plan is the introduction to the suite of plans that make up the CEMP. It outlines the framework and philosophies of Seattle's emergency management program. It explains how the program is organized and functions; how we develop plans engaging relevant stakeholders; how we train, test, and improve capabilities; and how we prepare the community for disasters. It assigns responsibilities for various aspects of preparedness and response to City departments and establishes policies to ensure continuity of government as a whole and continuity of all essential operations. These functional aspects are referred to as Emergency Support Functions which mirrors the planning structure used by state and federal levels of government.

Emergency Operations Plan

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) provides the strategies and guidance for how Seattle responds to and manages disasters. It outlines roles and responsibilities of departments during emergencies; explains the role of the Emergency Operations Center and how it supports department and field level operations; describes hazard specific strategies for storms and earthquakes; and lays out specific functional areas such as evacuation, public warning, and incorporation of military assets into response. The EOP is reviewed and approved by the State of Washington Emergency Management Division for consistency with the State's plan.

All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

The All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (last updated in 2009) takes the hazards identified in the Seattle Hazards Identification and Vulnerability Analysis and identifies strategies for minimizing potential losses and maximizing opportunity to increase the community's resiliency from those hazards. These strategies may be implemented prior to, during, or after an event. However, it has been demonstrated that hazard mitigation is most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs. Because mitigation goals are risk-driven, there is a strong emphasis on earthquake mitigation. Mitigation actions identified include capital projects, plans, regulations, and outreach efforts. This plan is reviewed and formally approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency which keeps the City eligible for Hazard Mitigation Program Grant funding.

Update Process

Our plans are all informed by disaster exercises which test planning assumption validity and the integrity of our intended strategies. The plans are also influenced by the review of worldwide disasters that teach us lessons before we experience them ourselves. The City's Disaster Management Committee, comprised of representatives of City departments and many external stakeholders, has approved all three of these plans as has the Mayor's Emergency Executive Board.