

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and procedures for the activation and operation of the Washington State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This procedure is a supporting document to the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

References and Authorities

1. Title 38, Revised Code of Washington, Militia and Military Affairs
2. Chapter 38.52, Revised Code of Washington, Emergency Management
3. Chapter 38.52.010, Revised Code of Washington
4. WAC 118.30 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Emergency Management
5. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
6. Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Standard Operating Procedures
7. National Incident Management System (NIMS)
8. National Response Framework (NRF)

Scope

This procedure focuses on the response phase of emergency management and the transition to recovery. It is applicable to state operations for hazards and contingencies outlined in the CEMP. The procedure addresses operations at the state EOC located at Camp Murray, Tacoma, Washington. Operations at an alternate location in the event that the Camp Murray facility is unusable or inaccessible will be addressed in support of the Washington State Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

Definition of Emergency/Disaster

EMERGENCY – An event, expected or unexpected, involving shortages of time and resources; that places life, property, or the environment, in danger; that requires response beyond routine incident response resources.

DISASTER – An event expected or unexpected, in which a community's available, pertinent resources are expended. It may also be the need for resources exceeds availability; and in which a community undergoes severe danger; incurring losses so that the social or economic structure of the community is disrupted; and the fulfillment of some or all of the community's essential functions are prevented.

Examples of emergencies/disasters:

- ◆ When state efforts are needed to help local governments fight floods.
- ◆ When the Department of Ecology responds to an oil spill of large proportions or a threatened spill, as in the case of a grounded tanker.
- ◆ When the Department of Natural Resources is fighting fires that threaten homes or communities.
- ◆ When an earthquake occurs in the state.

- ◆ When a pending storm is, or has the potential to be, of such severity as to endanger lives.
- ◆ When an earthquake in the Pacific Ocean causes a Tsunami Warning to be issued for the coast of Washington.
- ◆ When the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Department of Transportation (DOT) or other government agency responds to a large transportation emergency, such as a major freeway accident, air crash, ferry accident or bridge collapses.

Local emergencies (structural fires, etc.) are not considered in this definition; unless the local government requires state assistance.