2022 Regional Lahar Evacuation Exercise

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Mount Rainier as seen from the crater rim of Mount St. Helens, overlooking Spirit Lake
USGS Photo
East Pierce Interlocal Coalition for Emergency Management (EPIC-EM)
EPIC-EM

- Seven jurisdictions entered into an Interlocal agreement for emergency management preparedness, planning, training and exercise (February 2021)
- The Coalition has a multi-year work plan that prioritizes the Coalition’s efforts
- Recently completed the East Pierce County Lahar Rapid Action Plan (RAP)
- Currently completing the Coalition’s Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans
- Next regional planning process will be the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
• Jurisdiction shelter and mass care plans
  • “Puyallup Chill Out 2021”, full-scale shelter exercise, conducted on October 12, 2021

• Alert and Warning – CodeRED implementation

• Training and Exercise opportunities for the region
The mission of EPIC (East Pierce Interlocal Coalition) is to protect lives and property through preparedness and mitigation activities. It develops and refines emergency preparedness and recovery.
Volcanic Lahar

• Lahar is an Indonesian word describing a mudflow or debris flow that originates on the slopes of a volcano
• Lahars can occur with or without a volcanic eruption

Photo Credit: USGS
East Pierce County Lahar Rapid Action Plan (RAP)
East Pierce County Lahar Rapid Action Plan (RAP)

- Designed for first responders in the immediately impacted areas of an incoming no-notice or short-notice (also referred to as unheralded) lahar from Mount Rainier
- Includes a Critical Action Guide section as well as Rapid Action Procedures (RAP) for each first responder agency
- Developed by a multi-jurisdictional, multi-discipline planning team
Regional Lahar Evacuation Exercise, April 29, 2022

1. Provide for the safety and accountability of all participants and responders throughout the East Pierce Regional Lahar Evacuation Exercise

2. Maintain traffic control and safe travels for all students and staff

3. Utilize the East Pierce School Evacuation Dashboard (GIS resource) throughout the duration of the exercise

4. Familiarize students with the evacuation routes and provide them with the tools to be prepared for a real-life lahar evacuation
Regional Lahar Evacuation Exercise, April 29, 2022

• Jurisdictions included Puyallup, Sumner, Orting, Bonney Lake, Buckley, Carbonado and Wilkeson


• The Puyallup EOC, Bonney Lake EOC and the Buckley EOC activated in support of the exercise
Regional Lahar Evacuation Exercise, April 29, 2022

• Over 40 schools participated
• Approximately 14,500 students and staff practiced their walking evacuation routes
• Approximately 11,500 students and staff practiced their shelter in place procedures
• 3 Emergency Operations Center with a combined total of over 120 EOC participants participated
• Over 100 first responders, jurisdiction staff and other personnel assisted the schools with the drill
Bonney Lake Emergency Operations Center
Regional Lahar Evacuation Routes

- Coordinated regionally
- All first responders in the impacted area will know what actions to take immediately upon notification of an incoming lahar
- All residents in the impacted jurisdictions will know what routes to use (vehicular and walking) and where to go (evacuation locations)