



EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #11 FOOD, WATER AND DONATED GOODS

LEAD: **Emergency Management**

SUPPORT: **Disaster Assistance Council (DAC)**
American Red Cross
Cooperative Extension
Crisis Clinic
Fair
Thurston County Food Bank
Public Health

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this ESF is to coordinate efforts to provide safe handling of food, water and donated goods following a major emergency or disaster to persons unable to provide for themselves.

B. Scope

This ESF provides for the management, safe handling, and distribution of food stocks, water and donated goods for the needs in Thurston County and its cities during a major emergency or disaster.

II. RELATED POLICIES

None

III. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

- A.** Under emergency/disaster conditions the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army are the primary agencies that have the ability to coordinate feeding.
- B.** Emergency Management will work with all community, humanitarian, and social service organizations to assist in the coordination of this activity.

- C.** If not handled properly, food, water and donated goods can become vehicles for illness and disease transmission. Thurston County Public Health will provide technical assistance to determine safety of food, water and donated goods distributed to the public.
- D.** The distribution of food, water and donated goods needs to be a community wide effort to include Thurston County government.
- E.** Distribution of food, water and donated goods will tax government, humanitarian, and social service agencies.
- F.** Thurston County has limited experience in coordinating the distribution of food, water and donated goods in a catastrophic event.
- G.** During a disaster, the public becomes generous in both donating monies and goods to the disaster area. This includes major corporations. Often this generous outpouring of goodwill severely impacts and overwhelms local government and social agencies trying to manage the donated goods.
- H.** In a Puget Sound wide disaster, the management of donated goods will not only overwhelm government and social agencies but the goodwill could be so generous, many donated goods may never be used and will require disposal.
- I.** Water supplies will be severely impacted both during flooding, severe winter storms (frozen then ruptured pipes) and earthquakes (total disruption, cracks, pipeline failures, etc.).
- J.** Most water purveyors are not prepared to deal with severely impacted water systems after a major emergency/disaster.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Emergency Management will coordinate with local agencies, churches, institutions, commercial facilities, volunteer organizations and appropriate purveyors for the management of food, water and donated goods.
2. County Public Health Department and the Cooperative Extension will provide information on preventative measures to be taken to reduce contamination of food, water, crops, and livestock, as well as information and recommendations for the safe storage and distribution of emergency

food. Information will be disseminated as described in ESF #31 Public Information.

3. The Volunteer Center will assist and support community organizations by recruiting and mobilizing additional community volunteers when requested.

B. Food

1. In the event of a county-wide disaster, the cooperation of the commercial food sector is essential to execute emergency plans for allocation of food resources to meet emergency demands.
2. EOC will coordinate county food resources.
3. Emergency food stocks will be purchased or procured under the provisions of RCW 38.52.070.
4. Coordination of food stocks may be made in cooperation with the Thurston County Food Bank.

C. Water

1. Thurston County receives its water from a multitude of systems. There are over 850 public water systems and thousands of private wells in Thurston County.
2. EOC will coordinate county water resources.
3. Following an earthquake, water must be considered contaminated because of pipeline breaks.

D. Donated Goods

1. EOC will coordinate county donated goods resources.
2. Thurston County government will coordinate all "nationally donated goods" with State Emergency Management.
3. EOC will assure all donated goods are safely distributed based on need to the cities of Thurston County and the unincorporated areas of the county.

4. Donated goods are categorized into two sections: solicited goods and unsolicited goods.
 - a. **Solicited Goods** - The impacted community has identified a specific need and requests specific items from either the general public and/or the community. Usually the request is for cash to the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, or other agency providing major relief efforts to the affected community.
 - b. **Unsolicited Goods** - The public sees or hears of the disaster through the media and is motivated to "send a donation and/or donated good" to the impacted area whether it is needed or not. The Thurston County Food Bank will coordinate sorting, storing and distribution of unsolicited goods.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Local

1. American Red Cross

- a. Provides disaster victims with food, clothing, shelter, first aid, and make referrals for other urgent needs.
- b. Assesses equipment and training needs.
- c. Provides liaison to county EOC.

2. Emergency Management

- a. Coordinates the activities of those local agencies charged in local plans for the provision of food, water and donated goods.
- b. Informs assigned agencies of the need to coordinate food, water and donated goods.
- c. Coordinates and maintains liaison with private providers of mass care resources and services.
- d. Coordinates with all appropriate departments/agencies to ensure operational readiness.

- e. Maintains an operational EOC and emergency operating procedures.
- f. Coordinates Emergency Public Information regarding food resources with the State Emergency Public Information Officer.
- g. Notifies local food banks of the possible need to activate and coordinate food distribution.
- h. Coordinates with State Emergency Management in the development of local programs that will manage the logistics of food, water and donated goods.

3. Food Bank

- a. Coordinates distribution of unsolicited goods.
- b. Coordinates with the Volunteer Center for additional staffing needs.
- c. Provides emergency food to individuals and organizations.
- d. Maintains a resource listing of county-wide food bank facilities and their equipment, supplies, and facilities and their availability.
- e. Provides a copy of the resource list to Emergency Management upon request.

4. Public Health

- a. Analyzes water samples from sources suspected of contamination and makes appropriate recommendations.
- b. Develops procedures to notify the residents of Thurston County how to treat contaminated food and water.
- c. Monitors the safe distribution of food, water and donated goods.

5. Salvation Army

- a. Provides mobile canteen services.
- b. Provides emergency feeding services.

- c. Collects and distributes food, clothing, and other supplies.
- d. Maintains a resource listing of equipment, supplies, and facilities and their availability.
- e. Provides a copy of the resource listing to Emergency Management upon request.
- f. Assesses equipment and training needs.
- g. Coordinates activities with the county EOC.

6. Crisis Clinic

Respond to the humanitarian and personal needs of disaster victims by referring them to appropriate agencies, organizations or individuals.

B. State

1. State Emergency Management

- a. Requests the assistance of state agencies and private organizations having emergency mass care capabilities when requested by local governments.
- b. Provides overall logistical support of nationally donated goods.
- c. Alerts those state and local agencies that have the expertise needed to manage food, water, and donated goods.

2. Department of Health

- a. Assist local public health in providing for communicable disease control, non-acute medical or health issues, proper waste containment and disposal, safe food, and proper hygiene in mass care or shelter setting.

3. Other State Agencies

Responsibilities as identified in the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*.

C. Federal

The Department of Agriculture assists in the inspection of donated foods and other goods.

VI. REFERENCES

A. National Response Plan

B. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan