



## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #34 INTER-GOVERNMENT COORDINATION**

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**LEAD:** Thurston County

**SUPPORT:** City of Olympia  
City of Lacey  
City of Tumwater  
City of Yelm  
City of Rainier  
City of Tenino  
Town of Bucoda  
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis  
Nisqually Indian Tribe

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Purpose**

1. Establish a process for making joint policy decisions during emergencies that affect more than one jurisdiction. The goal is to make consistent decisions between jurisdictions that lead to timely, coordinated and efficient actions during and after emergencies.

#### **B. Scope**

1. This document applies to joint policy decision-making situations in the event of an emergency.

### **II. RELATED POLICIES:**

None

### **III. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. The process outlined in this document will be used when policy decisions could affect residents, property, and/or the economies of more than one jurisdiction within Thurston County.
- B. Joint policy decisions may not contradict jurisdictions' constitutional or legal responsibilities.

- C. This document does not replace or supercede any contracts, agreements, or understandings that already exist between the jurisdictions.
- D. The jurisdictions named in this document will not relinquish any of their own legal authority to make decisions and act in their community's best interest during emergencies.
- E. Each party to a joint decision is responsible for its own wrongful or negligent acts or omissions.
- F. Joint decisions are to focus on broad policy-oriented and strategic issues, not specific operational activities.
- G. The nature of emergencies means jurisdictions may need to make decisions quickly. Individual jurisdictions should be prepared to ratify joint policy decisions at the earliest opportunity.
- H. Under extreme circumstances, decisions may be made even if all affected jurisdictions cannot be present. The continuity of government provisions of the law will be observed.
- I. Making joint policy decisions during an emergency may be difficult at times because of differing legal mandates and diverse operational goals of jurisdictions.

#### **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

In the event that an emergency affects residents, property, or the economies of more than one jurisdiction, the jurisdictions may create a "Joint Policy Team" as follows:

- A. The need for a policy decision or joint action with potential cross-boundary impact will likely be identified by one or more of the member jurisdictions of the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County.
- B. Each jurisdiction affected by the emergency will name a representative to the Joint Policy Team. The representatives will be either elected officials or their designees who are duly authorized to make decisions on behalf of their jurisdiction.
- C. The Joint Policy Team will, to the extent possible, meet in person so that decisions can be made quickly among all members. However, teleconferencing, telephone calling, or other forms of real-time communication may be used instead when necessary.

- D. Decisions made by the Joint Policy Team may have to be ratified by the elected body of the affected jurisdictions.
- E. Each jurisdiction will be responsible for executing and monitoring joint policy decisions within their own jurisdictions.
- F. Types of joint policy decisions may include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Joint statements or official declarations, including special warnings, instructions, statements, or other emergency public information.
  - 2. Evacuation orders.
  - 3. Reentry policies.
  - 4. Curfew or the restriction of movement.
    - a. Time limits on when residents may access identified emergency areas.
    - b. Long-term closure of an emergency scene or region to unauthorized personnel.
    - c. Long-term closure of streets and roads to unauthorized traffic.
  - 5. Regulation or allocation of essential goods and services.
    - a. Impressing (including seizing) necessary items for use during an emergency. (Owners of the items would be compensated, as provided in RCW 38.52.)
    - b. Encouraging retail and service establishments to voluntarily resist increasing the price of certain essential goods (anti-price gouging measures).
    - c. Establishing mandatory price-stabilization measures to ensure necessary items are distributed equitably among residents. Examples include: food, water, heating fuels, shelter repair materials, and other goods needed to ensure the health and safety of residents.

6. Prioritization of response and recovery resources in the most effective and efficient manner.
7. Enforcement of isolation or quarantine orders directed by the Public Health Officer.

## **V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Elected Officials (Board of County Commissioners and City Councils)**

1. Support, and provide guidance for, the process by which joint decisions are made among jurisdictions during an emergency.
2. Approve legislation needed to adopt or ratify joint policy decisions made under this process.
3. Serve or appoint a designee to serve on the Joint Policy Team.

### **B. Emergency Management Jurisdictions**

1. Continue to participate in the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County as a way to maintain working relationships and share information.
2. Identify a facility as a central coordination point for the Joint Policy Team.
3. Work cooperatively to launch the joint policy-making process outlined in this document, including assembling the Joint Policy Team. Provide coordination and support to the team.
4. To expedite joint decision-making, develop “prototype” decisions in advance of emergencies, which could then be used during actual events.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Management Within Thurston County, as currently in force.

## **VII. ATTACHMENTS**

None