

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION - TWENTY THREE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

- PRIMARY AGENCY:** Emergency Management
- SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Assessor's Office  
Executive Authorities  
Building and Planning  
Law Enforcement  
Fire Services  
Public Works  
Red Cross  
All other offices, as appropriate

### **INTRODUCTION**

**A. Purpose**

The purpose of this ESF is to establish uniform policies for timely assessment of damages resulting from a natural or technological disaster.

**B. Scope**

Disasters cause injuries to individuals and damage to property, the environment, businesses, non-profit entities, and to government-owned assets. Damages to all of these must be assessed to determine a priority of response efforts and to determine eligibility for various forms of disaster aid.

### **POLICIES**

When the effect of an incident is so profound as to be readily apparent that the state and affected jurisdictions will qualify for federal disaster relief, a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) must be completed. Emergency Management leads the PDA effort, usually accompanied by state and federal inspectors. If the PDA ultimately leads to a Presidential Declaration of a disaster authorizing "Public Assistance", then detailed Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) of public sector damages will be completed jointly by local, state and federal staff.

Other inspectors survey damages suffered by individuals and businesses if "individual Assistance" is authorized. These activities are coordinated through a Disaster Field Office (DFO), if activated. Other damage assessment activities include "windshield surveys" of affected areas. This assessment is a quick, cursory evaluation, usually accomplished by driving through the damaged areas. Trained personnel of the American Red Cross can often carry out these surveys.

In rare instances, the effects of the disaster are so dramatic that the need for a PDA is eliminated for those jurisdictions that are especially hard hit. In those cases, inspectors begin verifying claims for Public and Individual Assistance as quickly as possible, pursuant to the administrative procedures of the specific programs.

Whenever there is a need for damage assessment, whether for potential state/federal assistance or just for local information, Emergency Management shall coordinate this effort. All appropriate agencies shall cooperate with Emergency Management in any way that it is asked.

## **SITUATION**

### **A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards**

See Hazard Vulnerability Analysis

### **B. Planning Assumptions**

1. An emergency or disaster has occurred.
2. The emergency or disaster has caused significant damage requiring thorough assessment.
3. Local agencies will assist in the damage assessment.

## **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **A. General**

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) are tools used to determine our jurisdictions eligibility for disaster assistance. Emergency Management will lead state and federal inspectors through damaged areas. From these assessments the state can recommend that the Governor seek federal disaster assistance. Mitigation and restoration of city or county property and or buildings would be led by the Public Works Department for the appropriate jurisdiction.

### **B. Organization**

The responsibilities for the accomplishment of damage assessment are with Kittitas County Emergency Management.

### **C. Procedures**

1. Early Assessment Activity

Initial damage assessment information will come into Emergency Management / EOC where it is analyzed. If it appears that Kittitas County may meet the threshold for state/federal assistance, Emergency Management will coordinate with the state. This coordination will include a local proclamation of Emergency from the legislative authorities and then a request for a PDA from the state. Based on the results of the PDA, the state will make recommendations to the Governor for further action.

2. Damage Verification

Once Kittitas County is declared, by the President, to be a major disaster area, teams of federal and state inspectors will inspect damaged public facilities with a county representative and determine what aid, if any, may be due. Other inspectors will verify damages suffered by individuals and businesses that have registered with FEMA.

**D. Mitigation Activities**

Primary and Support Agencies

None

**E. Preparedness Activities**

1. Primary Agency - Emergency Management

Prepare detailed administrative procedures to implement damage assessment programs.

2. Support Agency - Assessor

a. Develop and maintain procedures to evaluate damage to real property.

b. Develop and maintain administrative procedures to conduct damage assessments and public information procedures for informing the public as to damage assessment information.

3. All other Support Agencies

Develop and maintain administrative procedures to conduct damage assessments and coordinate information with Emergency Management.

**F. Response Activities**

## 1. Primary Agency - Emergency Management

Collect and assemble preliminary damage assessment information and provide it to the state.

## 2. Support Agencies

Provide damage assessment information to Emergency Management, as appropriate.

**G. Recovery Activities**

## 1. Primary Agency - Emergency Management

a. Continue to collect damage assessment information.

b. Provide a method of public information to collect damage assessment information and to advise the public what information is being sent out from the state and federal governments.

c. Work with state and federal assessment teams while collecting information in Kittitas County.

## 2. Support Agencies

Continue to conduct damage assessments and provide information to Emergency Management.

**RESPONSIBILITIES****A. Primary Agency - Emergency Management**

Coordinate the collection, dissemination, and evaluation of damage assessment information.

**B. Support Agencies**

Perform damage assessment tasks in support of this ESF.

**RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Primary Agency - Emergency Management**

1. Facility/location information can be coordinated at.
2. Trained personnel
3. computer system.
4. Vehicles
5. Appropriate forms.

**B. Support Agencies**

1. Trained personnel.
2. Vehicles
3. Appropriate forms