

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION - SIX **MASS CARE**

PRIMARY AGENCIES: Kittitas Valley chapter of the American Red Cross
Salvation Army
Local Community Church Council

SUPPORT AGENCY: Kittitas County Emergency Management

INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

To develop a county-wide capability for public shelter support during times of emergency or disaster.

B. Scope

This support function is ensuring a coordinated effort between government and community service organizations to provide basic human needs support to affected people after a disaster.

C. Limitations

Presently, Kittitas County and its communities can provide emergency short-term protection to meet the needs of residents and an additional percentage of evacuees by maximizing use of public buildings, churches and schools as temporary housing, feeding or medical facilities. Existing public fallout shelters are inventoried but not equipped, supplied, or maintained due to the lack of state or federal funding for the continuation of such programs.

POLICIES

1. All appropriate governmental and volunteer agency resources will be used as available.
2. All services will be provided without regard to economic status or racial, religious, political, ethnic, or other affiliation.
3. The Kittitas County Plan will not supersede American Red Crosses (ARC) response and relief activities. ARC operations will conform to the ARC Board of Governors' Disaster Services Policy Statement and will be performed in accordance with the ARC Disaster Services regulations and procedures.
4. Tracking of displaced citizens will be accomplished by the ARC Disaster Welfare Information (DWI) procedures.

SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Hazards and Conditions

Several different hazards exist that could cause the need for mass care of the population, either due to evacuation or displacement caused by damaged structures. Those conditions are, but not limited to Wildfire, Earthquake, Floods and Hazardous Materials emergencies.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. The shelter program shall be developed on the assumption that people may have to remain in public shelters for a period of time.
2. For planning purposes, it is assumed less than twenty percent of the population will require public shelter services in any given situation. Research conducted by Snohomish County (1981) indicates most people evacuated from their homes for extended periods of time will find their own shelter in non-impacted areas either with friends or relatives.
3. There are enough resources available locally to care for the local population for at least two weeks.
4. The Red Cross has existing agreements in place for shelters and an activation and staffing plan for shelter operations.

CONCEPTS OF OPERATIONS**A. General**

1. The American Red Cross has established a mass care/shelter plan. They are responsible for inventorying potential shelter locations and have:
 - a. Identified usable shelters, to include, but not limited to schools, churches, and campgrounds.
 - b. Written agreements to use shelters, as appropriate.
 - c. Trained volunteers for mass care and shelter operations.
 - d. Established a communication system for communications between shelters, Red Cross HQ, and the EOC.
 - e. Established, with other social service organizations, a crisis counseling system.
2. In an actual emergency, information concerning the shelter program including public shelter locations, will be disseminated as directed by Kittitas County Emergency Management or the designated Public Information Officer in coordination with the American Red Cross

3. The Red Cross representative to the EOC will function as the mass care representative.

B. Organization

1. The American Red Cross has developed a mass care/shelter plan for the Kittitas county areas. Along with this plan the Red Cross has trained volunteers and paid staff to carry out the plan.
2. Kittitas County Emergency Management has and continues to work with the Red Cross to assist in the coordination and liaison with local government and the public in instituting mass care and shelter activities for the public.

C. Procedures

Sheltering and mass care will follow the SOP's developed and implemented by the Mass Care plan of the American Red Cross.

D. Mitigation Activities

For the purpose of this ESF, Mitigation and preparedness are considered the same.

E. Preparedness Activities

1. The American Red Cross:
 - a. Identify usable facilities for shelter and mass care.
 - b. Maintain a current listing of all available shelters.
 - c. Recruit and train volunteers for mass care operations.
 - d. Coordinate with Emergency Management in planning issues and other mass care concerns.
 - e. Develop a liaison with other community service organizations for providing mass care to the public.
 - f. Provide Disaster Welfare Inquiry services.
2. Kittitas County Emergency Management:
 - a. Coordinate with the Red Cross in Shelter and mass care issues. Ensure compatibility between the Kittitas County Plan and the Red Cross mass care plan.
 - b. Obtaining shelter operations training from the Red Cross.

F. Recovery Activities

1. Primary Agencies:
 - a. Provide for crisis counseling, as appropriate.

- b. Provide necessary support services, as per their national policies.
2. Kittitas County Emergency Management:
 - a. Perform disaster impact assessments.
 - b. Coordinate with FEMA and State Emergency Management for any programs that are made available, as appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The American Red Cross:

As the lead agency responsible for implementing the shelter program, will designate a shelter coordinator responsible for:

 - a. Identification of suitable community facilities and development of emergency Suggested Operating Procedures.
 - b. Maintain listing of shelters, capabilities and resources available.
 - c. Developing county-wide shelter management and staffing assignments and supporting training.
 - d. Documenting costs for reimbursement and auditing purposes.
 - e. Evaluation and review of procedures to ensure operational readiness.
 - f. Coordinating support services in an actual emergency.
 - g. Tracking of displaced individuals.
 - h. Handles all aspects of the community sheltering plan and other shelter activities in accordance with their mission.
2. Kittitas County Management is responsible for:
 - a. Maintaining current inventories of available public shelter facilities and capabilities.
 - b. Coordinating the Implementation of the overall shelter program within the county as needed.
 - c. Establishing communications between the shelter and the EOC with assistance from amateur radio operators, when appropriate.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Red Cross responsibility.