

Section 7

Plan Maintenance Procedures Requirements

Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan---Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i):

[The plan maintenance process **shall** include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

- Does the new or updated plan describe the method and schedule for **monitoring** the plan, including the responsible department?
- Does the new or updated plan describe the method and schedule for **evaluating** the plan, including how, when and by whom (i.e. the responsible department)?
- Does the new or updated plan describe the method and schedule for **updating** the plan within the five-year cycle?

Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms---Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (ii):

[The plan **shall** include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate...

- Does the new or updated plan identify other local planning mechanisms available for incorporating the mitigation requirements of the mitigation plan?
- Does the new or updated plan include a process by which the local government will incorporate the mitigation strategy and other information contained in the plan (e.g., risk assessment) into other planning mechanisms, when appropriate?
- Does the updated plan explain how the local government incorporated the mitigation strategy and other information contained in the plan (e.g., risk assessment) into other planning mechanisms, when appropriate?

Continued Public Involvement---Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (iii):

[The plan maintenance process **shall** include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

- Does the new or updated plan explain how continued public participation will be obtained? (For example, will there be public notices, an on-going mitigation plan committee, or annual review meetings with stakeholders?)

SECTION 7

**REGION 5 ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2020-2025 EDITION
UNINCORPORATED PIERCE COUNTY
PLAN MAINTENANCE SECTION**

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The planning process undertaken in the last two years is just the foundation of breaking the disaster cycle by planning for a disaster resistant Pierce County Government and Pierce County Region 5. This Section details the formal process that will ensure the Pierce County Government Hazard Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The Plan Maintenance Section includes a description of the documentation citing the Plan's formal adoption by the Pierce County Council. The Section also describes: the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating within a five-year cycle; the process for incorporating the mitigation strategy into existing mechanisms; and, the process for integrating public participation throughout the plan maintenance. The Section serves as a guide for implementation of the hazard mitigation strategy.

Plan Adoption

Upon completion of the Pierce County Plan, it will be submitted to Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) for a Pre-Adoption Review. The EMD has 30 days to then act on the Plan and forward it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X for review. This review, which is allowed 45 days by law, will address the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201.6. In completing this review there may be revisions requested by the EMD and/or FEMA. Revisions could include changes to background information, editorial comments, and the alteration of technical content. Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (PC DEM) will call a Planning Team Meeting to address any revisions needed and resubmit the changes.

The Pierce County Council is responsible for the County's adoption of the Plan after the Pre-Adoption Review is completed. Once the County Council adopts the Plan, the Program Coordinator of the Mitigation and Recovery Division of Emergency Management will be responsible for submitting it, with a copy of the resolution, to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the Washington State EMD. EMD will then act on the Plan and forward it to the FEMA Region X for final approval. Upon approval by FEMA, the County will gain eligibility for both Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program funds.

Appendix A will list the dates and include a copy of the signed Resolution from the jurisdiction as well as a copy of the FEMA approval of the jurisdiction's Plan. In future updates of the Plan, Appendix C will be used to track changes and/or updates. This plan will have to be re-adopted and re-approved prior to the five-year deadline of July 2025.

Maintenance Strategy

The Pierce County maintenance strategy for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation provides a structure that encourages collaboration, information transference, and innovation. Through a multi-tiered implementation method, Pierce County will provide its citizens a highly localized approach to loss reduction while serving their needs through coordinated policies and programs. The method's emphasis on all levels of participation promotes public involvement and adaptability to changing risks and vulnerabilities. Finally, it will provide a tangible link between citizens and the various levels of government service, ranging from

community action to the Department of Homeland Security. Through this strategy, the County will continue to break the disaster cycle and achieve a more disaster resilient community.

Implementation Progress

Pierce County has continued to implement its use of capabilities, infrastructure and implement its mitigation strategies during these past 5 years. Numerous Plans were updated during this time to include the Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Pierce County Department Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), Emergency Operations Plan, Mount Rainier Volcanic Hazards Response Plan.

The AHAB (All Hazard Alert Broadcast) outdoor siren upgrade is a grant funded project to expand and improve the capabilities of the siren system employed by PCDEM to warn residents of a variety of outdoor environmental hazards such as lahars, forest fires, weather events, or other local dangers. This \$1.7 million-dollar undertaking has provided for the establishment of 8 new “greenfield” sites, as well as the addition of solar battery charging equipment, new radio receivers, and new satellite transceivers across the entire network of 42 sites. All of the sirens will now reside on a single satellite or radio activation network allowing for one button activation from a single computer interface. The system will retain the ability to be activated individually or in zones based upon a known or suspected hazard. Audible warnings from the system will no longer be solely comprised of the traditional wail tone, having been replaced with a digitized Westminster Chime for normal monthly testing, and variations of chime or wail for specific events. Additionally, a digital voice system will provide for unique pre-recorded voice messages, in English and Spanish, to accompany these audible tones, increasing awareness of the specific hazards, and appropriate actions to take. Finally, blue strobe lights have been added in an effort to reach other vulnerable populations.

Once complete (estimated by mid-July 2020), the system will provide coverage along the length of the Carbon and Puyallup Rivers from Wilkeson to Fife, and along the Nisqually River, from Ashford to McKenna.

The Flood Hazard profile that is incorporated in the Risk Assessment of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is also part of the County’s *2013 and 2018 Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan* (RFHMP) (<https://www.piercecountywa.org/floodplanupdate>) as well as the *Pierce County Flood Control Zone District’s Comprehensive Plan of Development* (CPOD) (<https://www.piercefloodcontrol.org/96/Publications>). The RFHMP meets the requirement of the National Flood Insurance Program for participation in the Community Rating System program at a high level. Pierce County is one of four Class 2 counties in the Country and in order for Pierce County to maintain this high level of certification, Planning and Public Works must update and adopt this plan every five years.

In the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan, a mitigation strategy that was identified during the mitigation planning process was the need for an annual program addressing vegetation

maintenance, repairs, and rehabilitation of flood control infrastructure. Soon after this strategy was identified, the *System Wide Infrastructure Framework* (SWIF) levee management strategy was created to improve the County’s levees systems by addressing identified levee deficiencies. This plan was accepted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 2017 and is intended to be “living” document for a 20-year period. The levees that are addressed in this plan are also addressed in the Hazard Mitigation plan Flood Hazard profile along with the *2013 and 2018 RFHMP and CPOD*.

Projects such as the Orville Road Channel Migration Protection project and the Neadham Road Levee Removal project mentioned in the mitigation strategies section have been incorporated in the 2019-2024 Surface Water Improvement Plan <https://piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/72601/2019-SWIP> (pages 39-41). This planning document is a six-year budget work plan for surface water capital projects in Pierce County that includes 41 capital projects that totals an estimated \$105 million. Both of these projects along with others can also be found in the County’s *2013 and 2018 RFHMP* as well and the *CPOD*. All four of these planning documents outline a path forward to improve existing roadway corridors to ensure that main safety routes and access points are accessible as much as possible.

In 2018, Pierce County Surface Water Management submitted and received approval for the *Program for Public Information, FEMA National Flood Insurance Program* planning document. This document outlined how outreach would be conducted in the county and it prioritized strategies that would engage and educate community members on flood insurance, flood preparation and mitigation strategies, especially for repetitively flooded properties. The following mitigation strategies are listed in this planning document as well as in the *2013/2018 RFHMP and CPOD*.

- FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- Repetitive Flood Loss properties
- Public Education: Flood

Not only is the mitigation strategy for “*FEMA Flood insurance Rate maps*” located in the County’s *2013/ 2018 RFHMP and CPOD*, this strategy is also listed in the County’s *Comprehensive Plan* that was updated and adopted in 2019 (<https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/38483/ADOPTED-Comprehensive-Plan-with-no-Community-Plans-Effective-8-1-2019?bidId=>). The *Comprehensive Plan* is an adopted policy document that guides the County decisions related to growth and development in unincorporated Pierce County. In this planning document, one of the goals that was listed is to “continue to coordinate with the federal government to ensure accuracy of the FEMA flood maps” (Goal U-31.3). As the County adopted the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) in 2017, these new maps replaced flood data that was developed in the late 1970’s. Since adopting the DFIRMS, the County continues to regulate best available data that is more restrictive than the DFIRMS in some locations, and also seeks to improve the DFIRM to show the most accurate and current data.

Implementation Continuance

In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation, Pierce County will make use of its capabilities, infrastructure, and dedicated population. The County will continue to implement its mitigation strategy over the next five years primarily through its annual budget process and varying grant application processes. All programs and entities identified in the Capability Identification Section will serve as the implementing mechanisms within those processes.

The PC DEM will work in conjunction with those departments and entities identified in both the Capability Identification Section and under each mitigation measure to initiate the mitigation strategy. For example, any infrastructure-related measures will be implemented through Pierce County's Capital Facilities Plan and the various departments involved through their normal budget schedule. Regulatory and land use measures will continue to be implemented through collaboration with the County's Planning and Public Works Department and the Planning Commission. Any updates or amendments of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan will include hazard mitigation, as necessary. Other measures will be implemented through collaboration with the identified jurisdictions/departments listed under each measure's evaluation and through the mechanisms and funding sources identified in the Capability Identification Section. These efforts fall under a broader implementation strategy that represents a county-wide effort. This strategy must be adaptable to change while being consistent in its delivery.

The mitigation implementation strategy is a three-tiered method that emphasizes localized needs and vulnerabilities while addressing the County's as well as multi-jurisdictional policies and programs. The first tier is implemented through individual citizen level—existing Public Education Programs in the County (for example, at the neighborhood level through the Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Team or PC NET program). The second tier is the Hazard Mitigation Committee (HMC), a county-wide committee comprised of governmental representatives. The third tier is a more external and multi-jurisdictional mechanism, the Hazard Mitigation Forum (HMF).

This method ensures that implementation speaks to unique vulnerabilities at the most local level, allows for coordination among and between levels, and promotes collaboration and innovation. Further, it provides a structured system for monitoring implementation. Finally, it is a method that can adapt to the changing vulnerabilities of Pierce County, the region, and the times. These three levels and their means of implementation and collaboration are described below.

Public Education Programs

At the individual citizen level, public education programs provide Pierce County with a localized mechanism for implementation. This approach to mitigation can adapt to the varying vulnerabilities and needs throughout the County. Public Education Programs are also a means for involving the public in mitigation policy development. Departments conducting mitigation-related programs will provide the existing targeted neighborhoods and special-needs populations a catalogue of mitigation measures from which individuals can choose those that would be most effective in their neighborhoods. For example, currently PC DEM helps neighborhoods form a PC NET to better prepare for, and respond to, disasters. This program provides coordination of groups in the community through which individuals can implement home and neighborhood level mitigation measures and become aware of their hazards, both natural and technological/man-made.

PC Surface Water Management Programs includes National Flood Insurance Program recommendations in its public education efforts. This not only improves the knowledge of the public in regard to flood issues but improves the County's CRS rating leading to lower flood insurance rates for the citizens.

Jurisdiction-Wide: Hazard Mitigation Committee

The HMC is the body responsible for determining the direction of mitigation policy recommendations and is responsible for reviewing the performance measures and Plan implementation. The HMC represents a county-wide group of hazard experts and government employees whose departments are responsible for many of the implementation activities. This Committee is composed of representatives from all the departments comprising the Planning Team as well as representatives from departments identified in the Capability Identification Section as having a role in hazard mitigation. The Committee is responsible for collaborating on county-wide policies and programs on the county-wide level. Meetings occur annually to coincide with the normal budgeting processes and provide an ample time period for review and adoption of any necessary changes to the implementation schedule. The HMC is responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Plan (discussed below). The HMC will ultimately provide a mechanism for coordination among those departments engaged in mitigation to ensure that a comprehensive and efficient approach be undertaken in the County's efforts at all-hazards mitigation. PC DEM will coordinate HMC activities.

Hazard Mitigation Forum

The PC Hazard Mitigation Forum (PC HMF) represents a broader and multi-jurisdictional approach to mitigation implementation. The PC HMF will be comprised of representatives from unincorporated Pierce County and all jurisdictions, partially or wholly, within its borders, that have undertaken mitigation planning efforts. The PC HMF will serve as coordinating body for projects of a multi-jurisdictional nature and will provide a mechanism to share successes and increase the cooperation necessary to break the disaster cycle and

achieve a disaster resistant Pierce County. Members of the PC HMF will include the following jurisdictions who have completed, or who have begun the process of completing, DMA compliant plans:

- City of Bonney Lake
- City of DuPont
- City of Fife
- City of Gig Harbor
- City of Milton
- City of Roy
- City of Tacoma
- Town of Eatonville
- Town of Steilacoom
- Pierce County
- East Pierce Fire and Rescue
- Graham Fire and Rescue
- Orting Valley Fire and Rescue
- Pierce County Fire District 14
- Pierce County Fire District 27
- West Pierce Fire and Rescue
- Clover Park School District
- Eatonville School District
- Franklin Pierce School District
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Puyallup School District
- Sumner School District
- University Place School District
- Crystal River Ranch HOA
- Herron Island HOA
- Pierce Transit
- Raft Island HOA
- Taylor Bay Beach Club
- Firgrove Mutual Water Company
- Graham Hill Mutual Water Company
- Lakewood Water District
- Ohop Mutual Light Company
- Spanaway Water Company
- Tanner Electric
- Cascade Regional Blood Services
- Dynamic Partners
- Group Health
- MultiCare Health System
- City of Buckley
- City of Edgewood
- City of Fircrest
- City of Lakewood
- City of Orting
- City of Sumner
- Town of Carbonado
- Town of South Prairie
- Town of Wilkeson
- Central Pierce Fire and Rescue
- Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One
- Key Peninsula Fire Department
- Pierce County Fire District 13
- Pierce County Fire District 23
- South Pierce Fire and Rescue
- Carbonado School District
- Dieringer School District
- Fife School District
- Orting School District
- Peninsula School District
- Steilacoom School District
- Tacoma School District
- American Red Cross
- Crystal Village HOA
- Metropolitan Park District
- Port of Tacoma
- Riviera Community Club
- Clear Lake Water District
- Fruitland Mutual Water Company
- Lakeview Light and Power
- Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company
- Valley Water District
- Summit Water and Supply Company
- Bethel School District
- Community Health Care
- Franciscan Health System
- Madigan Hospital
- Western State Hospital

- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- City of University Place
- City of Puyallup

PC HMF will meet annually in November and will be coordinated by PC DEM. The County will be an active participant in the PC HMF and will be represented by the Emergency Programs Manager. Only through this level of cooperation can these jurisdictions meet all of their mitigation goals.

Regional Mitigation Planning

Pierce County, Region 5 was configured into 5 planning groups based on a commonality in geographical hazards for the 2020-2025 mitigation plan update to foster relationship building and resiliency planning amongst jurisdictions. Although much of the meeting and planning time focused on plan updates and fostered relationship building the resiliency planning component will continue within multi-jurisdictional groups working together to further reduce risk. This provides another opportunity for continued collaboration planning amongst jurisdictions working and partnering together. The meeting frequency will be driven by the mitigation implementation strategy and combines the three-tiered approach. Unincorporated Pierce County interfaces with each of these five geographical planning areas and will provide the HMC specific department representative to engage in and implement mitigation activities within these geographical groups.

Plan Evaluation and Update

Based on new requirements in the Stafford Act put forth in the summer of 2008, for this and further revisions of the mitigation plan, the County has evaluated and updated this plan to incorporate these new requirements as necessary. Furthermore, for additional Stafford Act changes affecting CFR 201.6 in the coming years, the planning process will incorporate those additional changes.

The Unincorporated Pierce County Addendum to the Region 5 Hazard Mitigation Plan will guide the County's mitigation efforts for the foreseeable future. The County has developed a method to ensure that regular review and update of the Plan occur within a five-year cycle. The Mitigation and Recovery Division Program Manager will be responsible for overseeing; contacting the relevant experts and planners, organizing meetings, and coordinating the efforts below.

PC DEM will collaborate with the HMC, individual County Departments and the Pierce County HMF to monitor and evaluate the mitigation strategy implementation. Findings will be presented and discussed at the annual HMF meeting.

PC DEM will review the Risk Assessment Section to determine if the current assessment should be updated or modified based on new information. This will be done during the regularly scheduled reviews of the Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (HIRA) and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Additional reviews of this Plan will be required following disaster events and will not substitute for the annual meeting. Within ninety days following a significant disaster or an emergency event impacting the County, its Director of Emergency Management will provide an assessment that captures any “success stories” and/or “lessons learned.” The assessment will detail direct and indirect damages to the County and its infrastructure, response and recovery costs, as part of the standard recovery procedures. This process will help determine any new mitigation initiatives that should be incorporated into the Plan to avoid or reduce similar losses due to future hazard events. In this manner, recovery efforts and data will be used to analyze mitigation activities and spawn the development of new measures that better address any changed vulnerabilities or capabilities.

As per 44 CFR 201.6, Pierce County must re-submit the Plan to the State and FEMA with any updates every five years. This process will be coordinated by PC DEM. In 2025 and every five years following, PC DEM’s Mitigation and Recovery Program will collect updates from the Region 5 Plan jurisdictions and submit them to the State EMD and FEMA for review.

Continued Public Involvement

Pierce County is dedicated to continued public involvement and education in review and updates of the Plan. The County will retain copies of the Plan and will post it on the Pierce County Government website.¹ Announcements regarding the Plan’s adoption and the annual updates to the Plan will be advertised on the Pierce County website.

The three-tiered implementation structure provides an opportunity for continued public involvement. Public Education campaigns and Community Planning Groups are a means of informing the public on updates and implementation activities and receiving comments and suggestions back from the public.

Prior to submitting the plan to WA EMD and FEMA for the five-year review, the Pierce County Government will hold public information and comment meeting. This meeting will provide citizens a forum during which they can express their concerns, opinions, or ideas about the Pierce County Government Hazard Mitigation Plan. This meeting will be advertised by the County through a variety of media, including the local newspaper and our County Town Topics and a posting on the website.

Pierce County will conduct a review on a yearly basis to ensure all elements of the mitigation plan are updated and accurate. Each of the Region 5 jurisdictions has been tasked with having to provide documentation on public involvement including a brief description for each public hearing held, a summary on attendance, any feedback received from the public and an overall description of what was accomplished. Even further, Pierce County will provide proof of their attempts for public involvement such as screenshots of websites including date ranges, flyers and other relevant material documenting the public involvement process. Lastly, Pierce County will look for new innovative ways for public involvement.

ENDNOTES

¹ <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=943>

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