

SUPPORT ANNEX 7—WORKER SAFETY AND HEALTH

LEAD AGENCIES

Pierce County Finance Department-Risk Management
Pierce County Human Resources Department

SUPPORT AGENCIES

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management-Operations Section
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

I. INTRODUCTION

In times of disaster or even under the stress of emergencies, it is often difficult to think of worker safety and health issues. But it is times like these when it is most important to think about safety because we are most often taking employees, responders and volunteers out of their normal routine and environment and placing them in different surroundings and circumstances thus making them more vulnerable to accidents and illnesses. The following information is provided to give easy access to the law as well as to our own procedures for protecting worker safety and health.

II. PURPOSE, SCOPE, SITUATIONS, AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Purpose

The Worker Safety and Health Support Annex provides guidelines for implementing worker safety and health support functions during potential or actual incidents. This annex describes the actions needed to ensure that threats to worker safety and health are anticipated, recognized, evaluated, and controlled consistently so that workers are properly protected during incident management operations.

B. Scope

This annex addresses those functions critical to supporting and facilitating the protection of worker safety and health for Pierce County emergency workers during potential and actual incidents. While this annex addresses coordination and provision of technical assistance for incident safety management activities, it does not address public health and safety.

Coordination mechanisms and processes used to provide technical assistance for carrying out incident safety management activities include identification and characterization of incident hazards, assessments and analyses of health risks and exposures to workers, medical monitoring, and incident risk management.

C. Situation

As needed, this annex's activities will include the Incident Safety Officer monitoring incident safety and health throughout the operation, coordinating incident-specific worker training and worker exposure monitoring for physical stressors, including noise and heat.

D. Assumptions

This annex includes planning and preparation to ensure the health and safety of Pierce County response and recovery workers. Further, this annex provides a consistent approach to response and recovery worker protection in preparation for, and during, an incident requiring a coordinated local response.

When implemented, this annex will prioritize safety and health actions in cooperation with local departments and agencies, and with State, tribal, and/or Federal government and in coordination with the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) if activated.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Pre-Incident Coordination

1. Pierce County Finance Department-Risk Management

- a. The Pierce County Risk Management Department consists of Safety and Health professionals with current knowledge on the laws and regulations governing safety and health of workers in Washington State and Pierce County
- b. The coordinating organization for this annex will be members of Pierce County Emergency Management who will report on and support response and recovery worker safety and health issues.

B. Incident-Related Actions

1. The assigned Pierce County Emergency Management Staff for this annex convene as soon as possible, and within two hours of notification if possible, develop a plan for providing the safety support required. The particular support provided will be dependent upon the scope, complexity, and specific hazards associated with the incident and the needs of the workers.
2. Pierce County Risk Management staff will provide support and information as needed.

C. Incident Actions¹

Activities within this annex include but are not limited to those listed below.

- Identifying and assessing health and safety hazards and analysis of the incident environment, including response and recovery worker safety monitoring, as necessary (ICS Safety Officer).
- Assessing response and recovery worker safety and health resource needs and identifying sources for those assets. (Logistics Section Chief)
- Requesting additional or expert assistance as necessary from Pierce County Risk Department or from Washington State Department of Labor and Industries should be considered if the incident escalates or involves precarious safety hazards.

When implemented, this annex will coordinate with Federal, State, tribal, and local officials to determine potential needs for worker safety and health support. Risk Management and Washington State Labor & Industries will participate as necessary and if requested.

1. Health and Safety Plans

- a. Managing the development and implementation of a site-specific health and safety plan and ensuring that plans are coordinated and consistent among multiple sites, as appropriate.
- b. The health and safety plan outlines the basic safety and health requirements for workers involved in response and recovery operations. Elements of the plan are typically integrated into the Incident Action Plans and other plans used by the response and recovery organizations.

2. Safety and Health Assessment

- a. Managing, monitoring, and providing support and assistance in the monitoring of Pierce County response and recovery worker safety and health hazards.
- b. The scope of actions include providing onsite identification, analysis, and mitigation of safety hazards; identification and analysis of the response and recovery worker health hazards by personal exposure monitoring, as needed, including task-specific exposure monitoring for chemical and biological contaminants and physical stressors (e.g., noise, heat, cold, ionizing radiation); and the evaluation of risks from prevalent and emergent hazards.

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- a. Managing, monitoring, and/or providing technical advice and support in developing, implementing, and/or monitoring specific personal protective equipment (PPE), including the selection, use, and decontamination of PPE.
- b. Providing assistance in the implementation of a respiratory protection program when required.
- c. In coordination with ESF#7—Resource Support, providing technical assistance and support for response and recovery worker access to required PPE and the supplemental distribution of such PPE on an as needed basis.

4. Data Management

- a. Providing technical assistance and support in coordinating the collection and management of data such as Pierce County response and recovery worker exposure data, or OSHA 300 (or equivalent) accident/injury documentation data to identify trends, mitigate situations and facilitate data-sharing among response organizations.

5. Training and Communication¹
 - a. Coordinating and providing incident-specific Pierce County response and recovery worker training.
 - b. Communicating worker safety and health information to response and recovery workers, and other organizations, especially those providing skilled support.
 - c. Providing technical assistance and support in the development and distribution of materials for the prevention, awareness, and abatement of safety and health hazards.

6. Response and Recovery Worker Health and Medical Surveillance

In coordination with ESF #8—Public Health and Medical Service:

- a. Providing technical assistance, advice, and support for medical surveillance and monitoring as required by regulation (e.g., asbestos and lead) and evaluating the need for longer term epidemiological follow up and medical monitoring of response and recovery workers.
- b. Providing technical assistance and advice on identifying appropriate immunizations and prophylaxis for response and recovery workers.
- c. Providing technical assistance and support for maintenance of psychological resiliency of response and recovery workers.

- D. Post Incident

1. This annex will facilitate a critique of operations to compile “lessons learned” related to response and recovery worker safety and health issues.
2. Provide Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) for workers as appropriate immediately after incident; and/or during, if long term.

IV. ORGANIZATION ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Washington State Department of Labor & Industry

1. Washington State Labor & Industry acts as the primary agency for the coordination of technical assistance for responder safety and health.
2. Washington State Labor & Industry resolves technical, procedural, and risk assessment conflicts before they adversely affect the consistency and accuracy of the advice and information provided to workers and responders.

- B. Pierce County Risk Management Department¹

1. Risk Management provides technical support and expertise in matters of worker safety and health and works directly with Washington State Labor & Industry to

resolve complex issues.

2. When feasible, Risk Management and Washington State Labor & Industry may collaborate to ensure that their collective safety and industrial hygiene assets are aligned to produce consistent, vetted advice to the incident command structure.

C. Incident Safety Officer

1. The assigned Incident Safety Officer will develop the onsite safety plan for each operational period of the incident while ongoing.
2. The Incident Safety Officer monitors safety hazards, PPE, and dangerous materials handling during the incident and updates the safety plan accordingly.
3. The Incident Safety Officer will report on safety issues during each briefing and will highlight specific safety concerns to staff at these briefings.

V. DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

The Incident Safety Officer, as the Coordinator for the Worker Safety and Health Support Annex, coordinates State safety and health assets and the Risk Management assets to ensure proactive consideration of potential hazards and to ensure the availability and management of personal protective equipment and other resources used by responders to any incident.

The Incident Safety Officer manages the framework of agencies that provide the core architecture for worker safety and health support during an incident when directed.

The coordinating and supporting agencies to this annex take immediate actions to activate, mobilize, and deploy the appropriate worker safety and health assets to protect responders from injury.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

See the Communications Annex (ESF #2)

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The Emergency Management Director is responsible for the content of this annex and for its currency. EOC staff members must be familiar with its content.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND LOGISTICS

A. The Incident Safety Officer works as a support officer for the Incident Commander. The SO may have assistants, as necessary, and the assistants may also represent assisting agencies or jurisdictions. Safety assistants may have specific responsibilities, such as air operations, hazardous materials, etc. The Safety Officer may perform the following functions:

1. Prepare a site-specific Safety and Health Plan and publish Site Safety Plan summary (ICS Form 208, 410 KB PDF) as required and specific to each incident.

2. Identify and cause correction of occupational safety and health hazards.
3. Continuously monitor workers for exposure to safety or health hazardous conditions.
4. Alter, suspend, evacuate or terminate activities that may pose imminent safety or health danger to the workers.
5. Take appropriate action to mitigate or eliminate unsafe condition, operation, or hazard.
6. Provide training and safety and health information.
7. Perform assessment of engineering controls and PPE.
8. Strive to comply with Washington State Labor & Industry Standards under emergency conditions.
9. Document both safe and unsafe acts, corrective actions taken on the scene, accidents or injuries, and ways to improve safety on future incidents.
10. Participate in planning meetings and report out at briefings.
11. Identify hazardous situations associated with the incident.
12. Review the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for safety implications.
13. Exercise emergency authority to stop and prevent unsafe acts.
14. Investigate accidents that have occurred within the incident area.
15. Assign assistants, as needed.
16. Review and approve the medical plan.
17. Maintain Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214, 5 KB PDF).

IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

The following are specific laws passed by the State of Washington Legislature that pertain to occupational safety and health. The laws linked here are hosted on Washington State's Office of the Code Reviser web site.

[Chapter 43.05 RCW - Technical Assistance Programs](#)

[Chapter 49.17 RCW - WISHA Act](#)

[Chapter 49.19 RCW - Workplace Violence in Healthcare](#)

[Chapter 49.22 RCW - Safety - Crime Prevention](#)

[Chapter 49.26 RCW - Asbestos](#)

[Chapter 49.70 RCW - Right to Know](#)

[Title 51 RCW Industrial Insurance](#)

[Title 70 RCW - Public Health and Safety](#)

[Chapter 70.74 RCW - Explosives](#)

[Chapter 70.77 RCW - Fireworks Act](#)

[Chapter 72.23 RCW - Public and Private Facilities for the Mentally Ill:](#)

[Chapter 118-04 WAC Emergency Worker Program](#)

[RCW 72.23.400 - Workplace safety plan.](#)

[RCW 72.23.410 - Violence prevention training.](#)

[Chapter 88.04 RCW - Charter Boat Safety](#)

[Chapter 296-800 WAC - Safety and Health Core Rules](#)

¹ Pierce County Risk Management cannot train nor provide specific safety services to non-County employees. Volunteers are not covered for injuries in any way by Pierce County. Volunteers fall under Chapter 118-04 WAC Emergency Worker Program.