



Emergency Planning

Objective:

Decrease damage or harm in the event of a regional crisis

Strategy:

Undertake regional emergency planning and preparedness activities, including education and coordination

Why is this strategy important?

King County faces periodic river valley and urban flooding events, earthquakes, severe weather, hazardous materials releases, and transportation accidents, and it has the potential to be affected by volcanic and terrorist activity. These emergencies cross the boundaries of our 39 cities, 2 tribes, and more than 120 taxing districts (fire, school, water/sewer, etc.) over 2,134 square miles of diverse terrain. King County must work in partnership with cities, counties, state and federal agencies, community and other private organizations to develop a regional approach to regional emergencies.

How is our performance?

King County Office of Emergency Management tracks the percent of milestones met in "After-Action" plans, which are developed post-emergency threat or event to assess an organization's response and redress any inadequacies. "After-Action" Reports are an important performance improvement tool for planning and response to emergencies. In 2011, 35 percent of activations were reviewed with a corrective action plan developed in support of performance improvement. A training and exercise professional was hired in 2012 allowing all activations to be reviewed with a formal after action process and an associated corrective action plan developed. These corrective action plans incorporate feedback from not only the Office of Emergency Management but also all participating King County Departments and local jurisdictions.

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities. The goals of the CRS are to reduce flood damages to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management. King County has received the second-highest Class rating, Class 2, resulting in a significant discount on flood insurance rates for King County homeowners, and that the County has undertaken many activities to reduce exposure to floods.

What can you do?

[Learn more about preparing for emergencies, for residents and businesses](#)

Moving forward

King County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is currently updating Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) for all County departments and agencies. In the future, OEM will track the number of these plans and the number and percent of King County government organizations that have exercised at least some element of that plan in the last year.

Related Links

[Public Health-Seattle & King County Emergency Preparedness](#)

Technical Notes

Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System: All communities start out with a Class 10 rating (which provides no discount). There are 10 CRS classes: Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the greatest premium discount; Class 10 identifies a community that does not apply for the CRS, or does not obtain a minimum number of credit points and receives no discount. There are 18 activities recognized as measures for eliminating exposure to floods. Credit points are assigned to each activity. The activities are organized under 4 main categories:

- Public Information,
- Mapping and Regulation,
- Flood,
- Damage Reduction, and
- Flood Preparedness.

Once a community applies to the appropriate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) region for the CRS program and its implementation is verified, FEMA sets the CRS classification based upon the credit points. This classification determines the premium discount for policyholders. Premium discounts ranging from 5% to a maximum of 45% will be applied to eligible policies written in a community as recognition of the floodplain management activities instituted.