



Decrease Regional Crisis Impact

Objective:

Decrease damage or harm in the event of a regional crisis

What is happening in King County?

Building codes are an essential element in protecting life and property in a community by protecting structures and ensuring a safe built environment. Across King County, the average Building Code Effectiveness Grade has improved between 1997 and 2010. The Building Code Effectiveness Grade (BCEG) assesses the building codes in effect in a particular community and how the community enforces its building codes, with special emphasis on mitigation of losses from natural hazards. The program assigns each municipality a grade of 1 (exemplary commitment to building-code enforcement) to 10. The BCEG affects insurance rates in an area, because jurisdictions with well-enforced, up-to-date codes should have fewer insurance claims.

In the event of a regional disaster, many government and organizations will need to work together to address potentially widespread damage with long-lasting impacts. There are currently 145 signatories to Regional Disaster Plan (RDP) and associated omnibus legal/financial agreement in King County. Participation is voluntary and its success is dependent upon widespread endorsement of various cities, tribes, special purpose districts, businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout King County. The population density, complex system of governance, and significant risks we face (for both natural and technological disasters) created the need to plan for a coordinated response among public, private, tribal, and nonprofit entities in King County. The Regional Policy Committee of King County, comprised of elected officials from Seattle, Suburban Cities, and King County, passed a motion in October, 1998, that initiated development of the Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations in King County. This plan provides the framework needed to interlink the emergency response plans of a wide range of organizations and provide an agreed upon methodology for financial reimbursement for requested support. The process for creating this plan involved representatives from local government, schools, private sector, hospitals, and other stakeholder groups with specific emergency functions. The goal is to streamline the information necessary to assess county-wide impacts of disaster and increase the speed and efficiency of the relief effort. The plan may be utilized for an intense, localized event, or a widespread regional or catastrophic event. It is intended to be used in conjunction with other state and local emergency plans.

What role does King County play?

King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review's (formerly the Department of Development and Environmental Services) mission is to serve, educate and protect our community by shaping and implementing King County's development and environmental regulations. King County will continue to emphasize timely customer service and quality code compliance in order to protect the health of individuals and our community.

King County's Office of Emergency Management provides a coordinating function for the Regional Disaster Plan. Future changes to the Omnibus Agreement, the Basic Plan, or the Direction and Control Annex will be made by the King County Regional Disaster Planning Group, and then reviewed and endorsed by the King County Emergency Management Advisory Committee prior to being distributed to participating organizations for their endorsement.

In addition, the Office of Emergency Management is attempting to educate partners to improve the tracking of response activities; thus, maximizing federal reimbursement for our response activities. The goal is to ensure King County pays no more than 12.5% for the response during any federally declared disaster.

What else influences these indicators?

King County is 2,134 square miles of diverse terrain with nearly 2 million people, 39 cities and 2 tribes. The 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.

What can you do?

Join the **Citizen Corps** to help improve community emergency response

Learn what to do before, during and after a flood

Be **firewise** and create a defensible space around your home/property

Get involved - American Red Cross is accepting donations to support victims of Taylor Bridge Fire

Related Links

King County Office of Emergency Management

Public Health-Seattle & King County Emergency Preparedness

Charts and Maps

King County Average Building Code Effectiveness Grade

	Average Building Code Grade	Number of Jurisdictions with Data
1997	3.3	19
1998	3.8	4
1999	3.3	3
2000	3.5	2
2001	n/a	0
2002	3.1	12
2003	3.0	6
2004	3.0	5
2005	3.5	4
2006	n/a	0
2007	2.8	11
2008	3.5	2
2009	2.6	8
2010	2.5	8

Data Source: Department of Permitting and Environmental Review