

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 6:
MASS CARE, HOUSING, & HUMAN SERVICES**

Responsibility Summary

Primary Agencies:	Columbia County Emergency Management
Support Agencies:	Central and Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross Blue Mountain Counseling Blue Mountain Humane Society St. Vincent's de Paul Project Timothy Seventh Day Adventist Church Local Veterinarians Columbia County Public Health District Columbia County Transportation Columbia County Public School District Columbia County Fire Districts 1, 2, & 3 Columbia County Emergency Medical Services Columbia County Sheriff WSU Extension Office Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Washington State Parks Department Washington State Emergency Management Department Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

ESF 6 coordinates and provides life-sustaining mass care resources, essential housing and a range of human services when the consequences of an emergency or major disaster create an environment that necessitates an immediate response for the survivors of these emergencies. These survivors include the general public, responders and emergency support workers.

Scope

This ESF reflects the known combined capabilities of agencies and organizations that cooperate at the local level to bring all available resources to provide life-sustaining support to individuals and households who survive emergencies and disasters.

Local agencies and other organizations work together to provide mass care, emergency assistance, temporary housing, and human services to support the delivery of life-sustaining assistance to emergency and disaster survivors.

The four primary functions of ESF 6 are:

- Mass care: Congregate sheltering, feeding, distribution of emergency supplies, and reunification of children with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and adults with their families.
- Emergency assistance: Coordination of voluntary organizations and unsolicited donations and management of unaffiliated volunteers; essential community relief services, non-congregate and transitional sheltering; support to individuals who may require additional assistance in congregate facilities; support to mass evacuations; and support for the care of service animals and household pets.
- Temporary Housing: Temporary housing options may include rental, repair and loan assistance, if available; replacement or construction; referrals; identification and provision of accessible housing; and access to other temporary housing assistance resources.
- Human services: Certain programs are available only under a major federal Disaster Declaration or Individual Assistance Declaration to help survivors address unmet disaster-caused needs and non-housing losses through loans or grants; disaster supplemental nutrition assistance; crisis counseling; disaster unemployment; and disaster legal services. Other state and federal human services programs may benefit survivors, such as child care, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, housing vouchers, etc., which can be accessed through local county departments and/or private agencies.

II. POLICIES

Columbia County Emergency Management will support the coordinated efforts of the primary and support agencies during prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery activities. Policies and procedures used by Columbia County for resource management are based upon the Incident Command System (ICS) which is part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). EMD's goal will be effective logistics management to ensure that all functions are executed in a unified manner in order to maintain accountability, ensure appropriate support actions are in place and improve distribution efficiency before, during and after an emergency or disaster.

Regardless of the scale of the disaster, the goal of ESF 6 is to coordinate resources that will help people recover from an emergency or disaster quickly. Columbia County is a small community with limited resources however, aiding in this process, the county does have an existing delivery service system within the public and private arenas that currently serve to meet identified needs for people in emergency situations. ESF 6 is prepared to leverage this service delivery network to help respond to an expanded need in the aftermath of a disaster.

III. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

Hazard and Threat Analysis

The role of ESF 6 will be determined by the type and degree of a disaster, the needs of the population(s) impacted and the resources available. The Columbia County Multi-Hazard

Mitigation plan outlines the hazard risks of concern within the county. It is important to note that all hazards can result in a need for shelters, housing, food, and/or other human services.

Considerations include but are not limited to:

- Emergencies and disasters may displace people, service animals and their pets from their homes necessitating the rapid delivery of ESF 6 services, especially sheltering and feeding.
- Emergencies and disasters may disproportionately impact people who are poor, have limited proficiency, are aged or disabled because they are less likely to have natural supports in their communities upon which they may rely for assistance and are dependent on government services for help.
- The size and complexity of the disaster must be considered to determine if the incident can be handled locally or if a multi-jurisdictional response is required.
- Condition of utilities (power, water, sewer) and buildings. It may be required to relocate populations. Utility response activities will be managed through activation of ESF 12 - Energy.
- Condition of roads and other forms of transportation. Situational knowledge must be obtained in regard to the movement of supplies (gasoline, food, utilities) into and out of the community as needed. Transportation response activities will be coordinated with ESF 1.
- Communication plans and back-up plans need to be functional to ensure populations can request help, responders can provide situational awareness and communicate needs, connections can be made between various support systems, and safety and resource information can be communicated to whoever may need the information at any given time. Communication activities will be coordinated with ESF 2.
- Knowledge should be gained to determine who are the impacted populations, evacuees, or people living in other areas that may be impacted. And, whether there are any specific medical, linguistic, functional, access, religious, cultural or legal needs.
- Consideration should be given as to the ability of governmental and non-governmental agencies to continue in operations. Can they continue to operate, expand operations or maybe they have had to discontinue providing needed services.

Planning Assumptions

A disaster can occur without warning at any time of day and may produce widespread damage requiring the temporary relocation of disaster survivors. Some survivors will go to mass shelter, others will find shelter with friends and relatives, and many survivors will remain with or near their damaged homes.

Local and regional utilities, communications, lifelines, medical and transportation systems and networks may sustain damage. Disaster response and recovery activities may be difficult to coordinate.

Mass care operations and logistical support requirements will be given high priority by the county Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) staff and support agencies. Mass care shelter

facilities will receive priority consideration for structural inspections to ensure safety of occupants. The Columbia County Emergency Management Department (EMD), or the county ECC if activated, will coordinate ESF-6 planning activities to ensure appropriate immediate and automatic response.

Shortages of emergency response personnel will exist creating a need for auxiliary fire, police, search and rescue, emergency medical, transit, public works, utilities, health, shelter management and support personnel. Private sector and voluntary organization support may be needed to augment disaster response and recovery efforts.

Public, private, and nonprofit organizations, institutional providers (medical and residential), and the general public will have to use their own resources and be self-sufficient for a minimum of three to seven days, possibly longer. No single agency or organization will be able to satisfy all emergency resource requests during a major emergency or disaster. A partnership approach will be needed between public, private, and volunteer agencies to provide sheltering for large-scale disaster events in Columbia County.

Large numbers of spontaneous volunteers in the affected area and around the state or country will require a planned recruitment strategy and operational training effort.

Some medical facilities will be so overwhelmed that accurate record keeping on treated, released, hospitalized and transferred individuals may be disrupted. Many of the more seriously injured will be transported to hospitals outside the event area, some of them hundreds of miles away.

Larger disasters will likely require more agencies to respond, some of which are requested and some who self-deploy offering resources and services to the community in a manner which may or may not be consistent with this ESF.

Larger disasters where people are coming in from outside the county to assist will likely result in competition with survivors for scarce resources, such as temporary housing or transportation.

A disaster may produce mass casualties and missing people, requiring the need for medical support alongside mass care and a way to report missing people.

Individuals in need of disaster response assistance may include those who: have disabilities; live in institutionalized settings; are elderly; are children; who are from diverse cultures; have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking or are transportation disadvantaged. People with disabilities or functional needs before, during and after a disaster may require support to maintain independence, communicate, access transportation or may require supervision and/or medical care. People with disabilities or other functional needs who cannot be adequately met in a general population shelter may need to be transported to other suitable accommodations.

People impacted by the disaster will likely include a range of ages, languages, cultures, religions, medical needs, disabilities, and resources. Children are impacted by disasters differently than adults and likely have different needs.

Companion and/or service animals that belong to survivors will be impacted by the disaster and may need shelter, veterinary service, food, rescue or need to be located.

There will be people impacted by the event, potentially including responders who are not direct survivors of the disaster, but have ESF 6 support needs.

Immediately after the disaster, people will attempt to contact each other to communicate whether they are safe. Communication systems may be overwhelmed or inoperable. Services facilitating communication (such as battery charging) may be needed. The restoration of communications systems, disrupted by damages and overloads, may take weeks. Surviving telephone service into and within the event area will be either inadequate or prioritized to emergency uses to the extent that it will be unable to handle disaster welfare inquiries.

Survivors may be impacted emotionally and possibly physically by the disaster. This may result in needs that are more important to the survivors than what is initially recognized, possibly beyond the scope of services offered, and may complicate the survivors' and community(s) ability to recover.

Resources may be in short supply, unavailable or non-existent.

The County will make efforts to provide equitable geographic distribution of shelter and service locations within the county, balancing a number of factors including available facilities and affected populations.

The role of ESF 6 is likely to change overtime as situational awareness is gained in regard to survivor needs.

ESF 6 functions may be performed or supplemented by responders from outside of the county who may not be familiar with Columbia County and the population.

A federally declared disaster will enable survivors' access to Individual Assistance and/or Public Assistance (disaster assistance resources and services) not otherwise available. A federally declared disaster with mass care needs will result in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) response that will include significant involvement with ESF 6.

Some people will not be ready to have ESF 6 services end and the demobilization plan needs to anticipate this.

Clear and timely communication to support agencies and to the public regarding goals, resources and services, will need to include multiple strategies and means.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

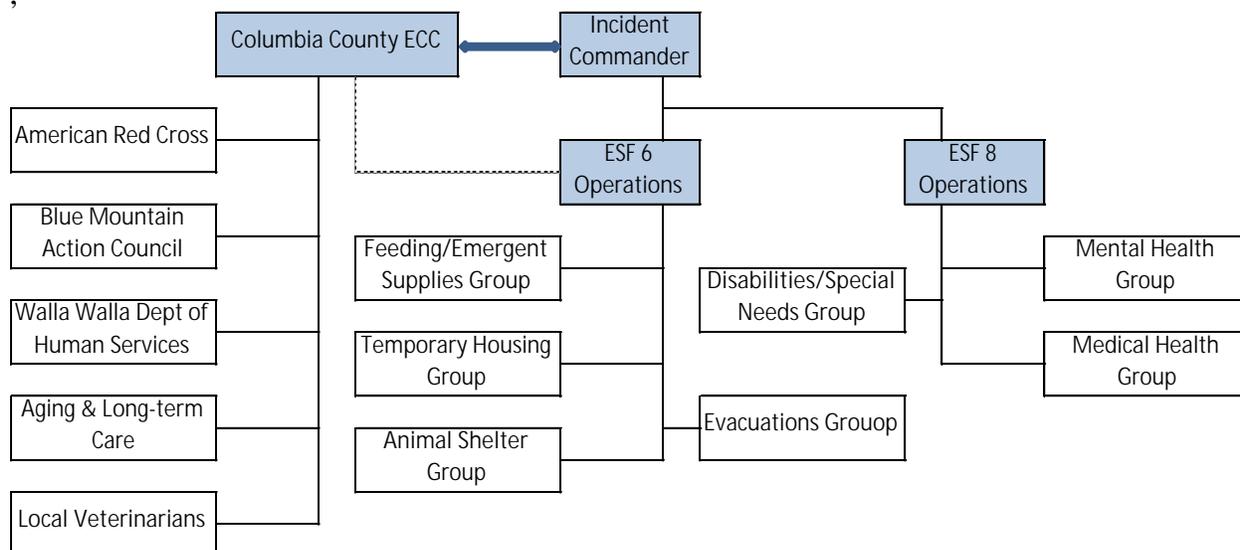
ESF 6 is designed to be flexible and scalable depending on the type and severity of the disaster. It is organized to be consistent with the National Response Framework and the National Incident Management System. These nationally accepted standards support a well-coordinated and effective response among all stakeholders at all levels. ESF 6 consists of many partners that can staff the ECC and/or work out in the field. The ESF 6 response can also be triggered when there is no ECC activation, but when an event can best be handled by leveraging the resources and structure of ESF 6.

Each level of government provides ESF 6 services and support. ESF 6 coordination is performed at the county level by the Columbia County Emergency Management Department (EMD), at the state level the Department of Health and Human Services (DSHS) is the lead and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) leads the response at the federal level. ESF leads from these various levels coordinate together as the situation requires ensuring efficient use of resources and consistent delivery of services throughout the areas of need. At all levels, life safety is the first priority of response activities.

Coordination among these entities may occur by any combination of conference calls, face-to-face meetings or formal requests for assistance. Task forces at the state and/or local level may be formed to address specific areas of need, such as sheltering or feeding. For situations where a multi-jurisdictional strategy would best meet the needs, a regional task force may be developed to coordinate efforts. Initial efforts would strongly rely on coordination between EMD and the Central and Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Organization

The County ECC is organized using the Incident Command System (ICS), which emphasizes management concepts such as unity of command/coordination, modular organization, management by objectives, and manageable span of control in the execution of mission objectives. It is very likely that close coordination with ESF 6 would be necessary in a mass care mission, integrating efforts around ensuring the well-being of people, service animals and pets.



Within ESF 6, task forces may be formed to address specific needs such as feeding, shelter, childcare, and Community Points of Distribution. These task forces will involve key partners, some of which may be from other ESFs.

ESF 6 and 8 are dependent on non-governmental agencies for some functions and support. These agencies are an integral part of ESF 6, particularly those agencies that are members of the Washington Chapter of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (WA VOAD), which include the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Additional potential partners include private agencies and other jurisdictional governmental agencies in which Columbia County has contracted with to provide services in the areas where the county has limited or no services. These agencies include but are not limited to:

- Blue Mountain Counseling;
- Blue Mountain Action Council;
- Project Timothy (Public Assistance and Soldiers & Sailors fund);
- Dayton Food Bank;
- Walla Walla County Department of Human Services;
- Senior Center;
- Aging & Long-term Care;
- Local Veterinarians.

Requests for assistance will be coordinated through the Columbia County ECC when activated.

Procedures

Obtaining situational awareness begins at the onset of the incident. It will be known early on if the activation of the ECC and ESF 6 will be necessary. The Emergency Management Director or designee will gather information through normal communication systems (ESF 2) and begin the request and coordination of necessary resources.

The primary goal of emergency response is to protect lives and property, which will be accomplished by executing an intensely coordinated effort. Functions and roles are delegated and/or shared between the County, other jurisdictional agencies within and external to the County, and other private sector and non-profit organizations to ensure all required actions are completed in an efficient and timely manner. It is critical, with the potential for several different agencies to be involved in response and recovery activities that all agencies and key personnel understand the Incident Command System (ICS) well enough to communicate with other agencies and bridge any gaps during an incident.

Mitigation

Columbia County encourages and promotes mutual aid and cooperation between local jurisdictions and agencies. These organizations are encouraged to participate in a variety of community activities and training exercises to test equipment, identify areas needing improvement of specialized support, and develop and evaluate operational procedures.

Columbia County EMD promotes using affiliated and unaffiliated volunteers as resources to fill gaps identified while developing implementation strategies. This includes determining knowledge, skills, and abilities of individual volunteers and developing job descriptions where volunteers can be assigned.

Columbia County EMD encourages and promotes resource typing, both individual and equipment capabilities, including entering this information into electronic data base such as WebEOC to provide real-time crisis management information.

Columbia County encourages participation of local residents at public education events offered throughout the year, which are focused in the area of community involvement in the areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery.

Preparedness

EMD coordinates with appropriate departments and agencies within the county, to ensure that those with human service capabilities have appropriate plans and procedures in place to support their assigned emergency mission.

Support agencies should develop and maintain an inventory of personnel and equipment capabilities and resources, noting availability and response criteria, and noting any deficiencies or limitations in respect to supporting this ESF (including emergency contact lists, resource lists, departmental/functional plans, procedures, protocols, and ECC job aids). Also, develop and maintain appropriate standards of operating procedures (SOPs) in support of their mission, support of this ESF, and train personnel to that standard. This information is requested to be shared with the EMD for central coordination of response capabilities.

Ensure after action reports are completed documenting the incident, what went well, where are the gaps/shortfalls, if any, and develop training and/or exercises to improve response capabilities. ESF 6 should be reviewed regularly and updated as needed based on this analysis and other lessons learned. Ensure necessary supplements to ESF 6 are developed and maintained.

Pre-incident coordination and planning activities conducted by Emergency Management in the preparedness phase include developing operational and tactical plans, training and exercising, and conducting vulnerability assessments. This phase also includes ongoing human service and health protection activities, such as provider education, identifying potential shelter infrastructure and food and water safety.

The Central and Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross maintains resource and personnel lists. They maintain adequate inventories for shelter operations and agreements with several local schools, churches, and other organizations for use of their facilities as shelter and/or feeding sites. They maintain procedures for the opening and management of shelters and feeding operations. They provide training to communities wishing to open and staff shelters.

All agencies associated with ESF 6 will attempt to participate in the hazard identification process to gain awareness of potential needs and take steps to correct deficiencies in the mass care, housing, and human services function.

Response

Countywide response activities of all operational jurisdictions, departments, and/or agencies are coordinated through the ECC under the guidelines outlined within this ESF. The operations section response will depend upon the disaster, identified needs, and strategy chosen. In addition to situational awareness provided through the ECC, the operations section conducts an assessment of the human services infrastructure.

When the ECC Director determines that an ESF 6 response is needed, a notification is sent to the American Red Cross government liaison to respond to the ECC as soon as possible. Based on the expertise in mass care response, the Red Cross is a major support agency in response efforts for ESF 6.

The ECC Director contacts all other primary and support agencies with notification of ESF 6 activation and information specific to the incident. An initial briefing of the situation as it pertains to mass care and immediate actions request is provided as part of the initial notification to support agencies to ensure preparedness. An expansion of the ECC occurs with the additional representatives needed to coordinate an ESF 6 response. The operational structure of the ECC is flexible and coordination is achieved through direct communication with partners and stakeholders, radios, email, and scheduled conference calls.

Response activities such as setting up a shelter could take several days. Clear communication to the public is vital so that they are able to make informed decisions on how they can best respond to the situation.

In some incidents, the ESF lead may determine it is beneficial to deploy staffing resources to the location(s) impacted by the disaster. All deployments are coordinated in advance through the Operations and Logistics Section Chiefs.

Due to the small size of the county and limited resources, the response to major disasters has been conducted in part through the employment of efficient task forces. This is especially efficient for feeding and sheltering. The ESF lead in coordination with the American Red Cross liaison, determines when a task force may be beneficial to meet the sheltering and feeding needs. The ESF lead may also designate additional tasks very specialized in meeting special needs populations such as children, elderly, individuals with disabilities or animal populations within the county.

Shelter and Feeding Support Coordination:

For smaller incidents, shelter and feeding resource requests can be handled through utilization of local resources however, in major incidents, the Central and Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross is relied upon heavily. The Dayton School District maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross in collaboration with the County Emergency Management Department works to identify facilities that are adequate to meet the immediate and short-term shelter needs of disaster displaced populations. Once the shelter is stood up, the Red Cross provides dormitory services including cots, blankets, food, and water.

The WSU Extension Office will participate in support of ESF 6 to promote disaster planning and animal safety through media releases and brochures. The extension office also participates with the pre-identification of available shelter locations for livestock during emergencies and disasters

Recovery

Recovery from a mass casualty is a whole community event. ESF 6 is supported by multiple federal, state, local, non-profit, and many other agencies and organizations which have specific missions to serve or advocate on behalf of children, the elderly, people who live in poverty, people who are disabled, have limited English proficiency, and others with access and functional needs. These resources are critical to a successful recovery mission for the whole community.

Many county agencies that support ESF 6, engage a wide range of stakeholders in program development and service delivery operations, in accordance with and within the limitations of their respective enabling legal authorities, missions and funding sources.

ESF 6 partner agencies routinely engage many other organizations in their day to day missions, including: community councils; voluntary organizations active in disasters; faith-based organizations; community leaders; disability services; private business; home care services; medical suppliers; advocacy groups; the media; transportation providers, and many more.

This ESF communicates with the whole community as needed during an emergency response and disaster recovery operations to accomplish response and recovery missions.

Cost Accounting and Cost Recovery

The Finance/Administration Section Chief is responsible for managing all financial aspects of an incident. Not all incidents will require an Administration Section and in this case, the ECC Director or designee will be responsible for the coordination of tracking county expenses, authorizing any costs related to ESF 6 in accordance with an approved County Commissioner emergency budget and cost recovery that may be available under the Stafford Act during federally declared disasters. Cost reimbursement requests will be developed by the Finance Section Chief from any source which may be available. All other primary and support agencies are responsible for tracking their individual expenses. All costs, including staff time, must be appropriately documented on forms established by the Finance Section Chief.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Primary Agencies

Columbia County Emergency Management Department and ECC

The Emergency Management Director has overall responsibility for the planning and coordinating of the ESF program within the jurisdictional area.

The Emergency Management Director activates in full or part, the Columbia County ECC and receives and verifies situation reports from a variety of sources. From this information he/she determines the need for mass care services and the amount of recourses needed.

The ECC Director coordinates with involved support agencies regarding transportation routes and limitations of access to areas requiring damage assessment, shelter sites, and distribution of relief supplies and equipment. In addition:

- Arranges for or coordinates logistical support, including transportation of evacuees and supplies.

- Provides public information on mass care sites, services provided, available routes, and transportation options.
- Advises and coordinates shelter and feeding requirements and operations throughout the county. This includes municipalities and unincorporated areas as well as voluntary or other agencies requiring or establishing mass-care shelters and feeding.
- Maintains coordination and communication between the ECC and support agencies.
- Identifies the need for mass care and shelter for displaced persons unable to provide for themselves as a result of an emergency or disaster.
- Provide direct and logistical support as appropriate and available.
- Coordinate efforts to reach special-needs populations.
- Assist in the coordination of long-term shelter needs with appropriate relief organizations (ESF- 14)
- Compile shelter and displaced persons information and disseminate through the PIO.

Support Agencies

Central and Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC):

- Sheltering – Open temporary, mass care, congregate shelters which provide meals, recovery information, emergency supplies and a place to rest. Support other shelters run by community partners with supplies and feeding, if resources permit.
- Feeding – Work with other support agencies to provide emergency feeding for persons in shelters and those returning to their homes, either at fixed sites or through mobile delivery of food appropriate for the situation and population being served.
- Maintains inter-local agreements with the Columbia County School District for shelter locations.
- May act as lead agency for identifying, planning, and coordinating mass-care shelter and feeding activities, whether public or private.
- Assesses situation and status reports from/to ECC and ARC damage assessment teams, assesses available personnel and resources.
- Opens and operates Red Cross or Red Cross-supervised shelters as needed within the extent of available resources.
- Keeps registration and accountability records of shelter inhabitants.
- Provides meals at fixed and mobile feeding sites for affected persons and emergency relief workers.
- Provides emergency first aid services in shelters, feeding sites, and emergency first aid stations.
- Distributes potable water, ice, and bulk emergency relief items. Based on the location and type of incident the Central and Southeastern chapter of the American Red Cross in

coordination with the Columbia County Emergency Management Department will establish Points of Distribution (POD) areas for distributing items to the general public.

- Provides staff and operates Disaster Welfare Information (DWI) services.
- Coordinates efforts to provide sheltering, feeding, and emergency first aid, operate a DWI System, and to coordinate bulk distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- Establishes communications between shelters, feeding units, emergency first aid stations, relief operation locations, and the ECC.
- Manages ARC logistical support (such as transportation, and needed supplies), and financial activities.
- Maintains contact with the ECC.
- Evaluates mass care needs, and makes recommendations to higher level of ARC regarding allocation of resources and establishment of priorities.
- Evaluates support requirements received from ECC, and/or other volunteer agencies.
- Supports recovery activities consistent with the mission and capabilities of the ARC.
- Provides information to Columbia County EMD to assist with after-action reports.

Other Volunteer Groups:

- Coordinates with ARC re: providing food, water, bedding, clothing, or other supplies.
- Coordinates with ARC re: providing fixed or mobile feeding sites.
- Coordinates with Blue Mountain Humane Society re: providing assistance with animal shelter operations.
- Supports recovery activities consistent with their mission and capabilities.
- Provides information to Columbia County EMD to assist with after-action reports.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

- Operates the housing function implemented through various programs and services designed to provide assistance for temporary housing for disaster victims. Assistance is generally provided for disasters that have received a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The assistance is provided to eligible applicants for temporary lodging or repairs/replacement of their homes.

Fire Districts and EMS

- Local fire districts will assist in opening the Reunification and Mass Care Center. Fire personnel may be asked to assist with traffic control duties at the Reunification and Care Center. They will be asked to assist the EMS providers located at the Reunification and Care Centers throughout the county with basic first aid.

WSU Extension Office:

- Assist ESF-11 and ESF-15 in the coordination of livestock shelter status during the recovery period.

- Supports local efforts to provide veterinary care and shelter to service animals and pets owned by persons displaced by the disaster.
- Participate with ESF-11 to coordinate the return of animals to their owners and help determine the disposition of animals that cannot be returned to their owners or normal habitat.

Columbia County Public Health Department:

- Provide for the coordination of health and sanitation services at mass-care facilities and other locations when requested by the ECC.
- Support local jurisdiction and/or tribal government medical and sheltering response, including support to persons with medically related functional needs.
- Coordinate and support local Medical Reserve Corps volunteer resources.
- Coordinate responses to requests for health and medical assistance.

Columbia County Public Transportation:

- Provide transportation resources to transport special needs or isolated populations to shelters as needed.

Columbia County Public School District

- Provide shelter location, shower/restroom facilities and maintain necessary inter-local agreements with the American Red Cross.

Blue Mountain Counseling Mental Health Organizations and CISM Programs:

- Provide mental health and emotional support to displaced persons and emergency workers when requested.

Blue Mountain Humane Society

- Provide assistance with local response agencies for the rescue, evacuation, shelter and feeding of pets.

Local Veterinarians

- Provide assistance with local response agencies for the rescue, evacuation, shelter and feeding of pets

Law Enforcement Agencies

- Columbia County Sheriff’s Office will establish security, maintain law and order, and provide crowd and traffic controls at such public shelters as deemed necessary by ECC and ARC.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Resources

The county will provide space, communications, and administrative support for the mass-care representative at the county ECC. Columbia County coordinates with the Red Cross for most mass care resources with an emphasis on sheltering and feeding as this is their area of expertise.

Red Cross Personnel Resources:

The Central Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross is made up of seven counties (Columbia, Walla Walla, Adams, Franklin, Benton, Yakima, and Kittitas). They have locations in Walla Walla, Kennewick, Yakima and Ellensburg.

The Central Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross has staff in both Kennewick and Yakima. They also have disaster volunteers in both Walla Walla and Columbia County. A “Disaster Action Team” out of Walla Walla takes calls for Walla Walla and Columbia Counties and dispatches volunteers and resources as needed. There are also two other Disaster Action Teams inside the chapter area available and staff members as well that are available to advise these teams. There is a regional on call number that will reach a staff person at any time if needed.

The Red Cross also has the capability to move volunteers throughout their chapter and region if needed. If a situation should start to escalate the Disaster Action Teams are trained and prepared to notify the correct people and facilitate movement of supplies and volunteers.

Columbia & Walla Walla County Disaster Action Team 509-386-8306

Disaster Program Managers

Cody Campbell 509-607-4626

Cody Tusler 509-961-0165

Regional Admin On Call 509-607-4501

Red Cross Equipment

The Red Cross has various pieces of equipment placed throughout their chapter. There is a sheltering trailer placed at Fire District 3 that is stocked and prepared to provide sheltering supplies for up to 50 people. Also, a trailer is staged in Walla Walla that could provide additional equipment if needed. Three sheltering trailers prepared with sheltering supplies for 100 people each, they are located in Kennewick as well as 5 other storage facilities containing reserve supplies. Four more shelter trailers are located in Yakima and Kittitas County.

The Red Cross also has two Emergency Response Vehicles that can facilitate the movement of food and/or supplies inside the chapter counties. These vehicles look similar to an Ambulance and can serve as a mobile feeding site if need be. These resources would usually be utilized on very large responses.

Infrastructure

Within Columbia County, the Dayton School District can provide temporary sheltering during a major disaster. The Pavilion at Columbia County Fairgrounds is utilized to shelter Incident Management Team (IMT) teams to alleviate the competition for these resources as much as possible.

VII. REFERENCES

FEMA National Mass Care Plan. <https://www.fema.gov/national-mass-care-strategy>

Central and Southeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross.
<http://www.redcross.org/local/washington/chapters/central-southeastern>