

ESF-20 Defense Support to Civil Authorities

ESF Coordinator	Washington Military Department – Local Liaison
Primary Agencies	Regional Military Branches
Supporting Agencies	Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Washington State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Federal and State primary and supporting agency responsibilities for this ESF are outlined in the National Planning Frameworks (Federal) and Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

I. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

To establish procedures for requesting and utilizing military assistance in Snohomish County during times of an emergency.

Scope

II. POLICIES

All local requests for DOD support will be coordinated through Snohomish County DEM to the SEOC. SEOC will validate, prioritize and forward the request for assistance through appropriate channels.

Commanders of local DOD agencies are authorized to respond to save lives, protect property and the environment, and mitigate human suffering under imminently serious conditions. DEM will notify SEOC of all locally initiated support operations.

Military forces, either state or federal, will remain under and follow their military chain of command. DOD elements in the incident area of operations and National Guard forces under the command of a Governor will coordinate closely with response organizations at all levels.

The State of Washington Department of the Military Adjutant General deploys state active duty resources of the Washington State National Guard (WNG) in a state-funded status in response to an emergency involving imminent loss of life, to prevent great suffering and/or to mitigate great destruction of property, in accordance to state regulations and statutes.

III. SITUATION

Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

Refer to the Snohomish County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (published separately) for the natural and manmade events that may affect Snohomish County.

Planning Assumptions

An emergency or disaster could occur for which military assistance may be the best or only solution.

Any request for military assistance will be processed through Snohomish County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to SEOC.

The county and state have issued Disaster Declarations or are operating under unique or extreme circumstances.

A military liaison may be assigned to the Snohomish County EOC to an area wide overlapping county jurisdiction) location where a task force has been established to coordinate the use of any military assets assigned to the event.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.08.040 provides that, upon the occurrence of certain events, the Governor has the power to order the organized militia of Washington or any part thereof into active service in order for Washington State to execute the laws and perform such services as the Governor shall deem proper. This power resides with the Governor or acting Governor alone, and may not be delegated to another person or agency.

Organization

The Washington Military Department is made up of two military components: the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard; and two civilian components; the SEOC and the Support Services staff. The WNG is positioned in 26 cities throughout the State. Unit capabilities include engineering, communications, transportation, medical, chemical decontamination, and aviation.

Snohomish County is home to Naval Station Everett and its supporting facilities as well as a Reserve Support Center (Marysville), Air Guard Facility (Paine Field), and an Army Guard Armory (Snohomish).

Procedures

The various elements of the Washington State Military Department will follow their internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) when in support of an emergency or disaster.

Organization

Military support to civil authorities is normally executed as a military operation where federal military forces remain under Department of Defense command and control.

Resource Requests

Requests for military support to civil authorities are initiated by the DEM Director, EOC manager or designee when local resources are depleted or nearly depleted. Requests for WNG support is made to the Washington State Emergency Operations Center. Department of Defense (DoD) support can also be requested directly from the commander of the respective military branches or through the Washington State Emergency Operations Center to the Governor and on to FEMA.

Snohomish County officials will request Washington National Guard assistance through the Washington State Emergency Operations Center to the governor under the authorities of the RCW 38.08.040. WNG assistance is designed to complement, not substitute for, civil participation in emergency management.

- Requests for WNG personnel and equipment must be consistent with unit capabilities. Using a company of highly trained truck drivers to fill sandbags may deny a critical need from being filled elsewhere.
- Loan of equipment must not allow a WNG unit to diminish its capability to be self-supporting.

Activation

The decision to recommend activation of the WNG, after request by civil authorities, is made by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, in consultation with The Adjutant General, to the Governor.

- **Washington National Guard**
 - Provide temporary military support to civil authorities on order of the governor or during state emergencies.
 - When emergency response and recovery demands exceed the local and state capacities, Department of Defense and other federal resources are requested by the Governor to the President, through FEMA Region X.
- **Department of Defense**
 - Federal military forces are federal resources and require a presidentially declared state of emergency for deployment under the National Response Framework. FEMA Region X is responsible for directing, controlling and coordinating the federal response in cooperation with the DEM Director, EOC manager or delegate.
 - Exceptions include the following:
 - Imminently serious conditions – Any commander is authorized to take immediate action without waiting for higher headquarters' approval in order to save lives,

prevent suffering and/or mitigate great destruction of property, where response time usually is of the essence. The DEM Director, EOC manager or delegate will make direct request for this assistance. The PC DEM maintains memoranda of understanding with the Joint Base, Western Region Medical Command, the Madigan Health Care Services and other military entities describing the procedures for requesting such medical assistance.

- Undeclared emergency or disaster (not imminently serious) – Any commander is authorized to provide assistance when local capabilities have been exhausted. This request comes with the expectation of reimbursement. The DEM director, EOC manager or delegate will make direct request for this assistance.
- **The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** provides direct assistance to civil authorities in flood fighting, flood rescue, and the repair or restoration of flood control works.

Mitigation Activities

Mitigation activities as it relates to Defense Support to Civil Authorities are beyond the scope of this ESF (refer to Washington State Emergency Support Function 20 – Defense Support to Civil Authorities).

Preparedness Activities

Use of military resources should be considered during exercises and other emergency planning activities.

Response Activities

Request for military assistance will be mission specific. Examples of mission requests are:

- Provide air or land transportation for specific equipment or personnel.
- Provide security and traffic control for a specific area, such as a city or county road.
- Establish a mobile communications station.
- Set up and operate a mass feeding station.
- Establish a water purification station.

Recovery Activities

Response activities may need to continue through the recovery phase of a disaster, however all military personnel and equipment will be released before any civilian assets, serving the same purpose, are released.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

General

All primary and supporting ESF agencies must have established disaster related policies, systems, and procedures for:

- Personnel accountability, safety, lines of authority and succession
- Providing logistical support to their personnel and equipment
- Facility / infrastructure damage assessment and reporting
- Continuity of operations to maintain essential services
- Facility / infrastructure repair and restoration

Primary

Provides support to civil authorities consistent with their designated mission and capabilities

Supporting

Snohomish County DEM:

- Coordinate the issuance of a Disaster Declaration through the County Executive before requesting military assistance assets.
- Advise SEOC of any anticipated need for military / civil support operations and request IAW established procedures.
- Advise SEOC of any local military initiated support as authorized under local commander’s authority.
- Ensure that military units operating / assigned to the county have a designated field contact that they are to report to for instructions.
- If a military liaison has not been assigned to coordinate military / civil support operations, then DEM will appoint a military/civil liaison in the Snohomish County EOC to coordinate field / EOC operations.
- If a military liaison is assigned to Snohomish County EOC, DEM will provide the same facility / equipment support as provided to all other ESF and liaison is working in the EOC.

VI. REFERENCES

- Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.08.040
- Washington Emergency Management Division Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), ESF 20 – Defense Support to Civil Authorities

VII. TABS