

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 12**

### **ENERGY AND UTILITIES**

**ICS FUNCTION:** Operations

**LEAD:** Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

Island County Public Works

**SUPPORT:** Sheriff (Public Information Officer)

Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

Snohomish Public Utility District (PUD)

Cascade Natural Gas and commercial Propane Supplies

Verizon Telephone Company

Whidbey Island Telephone Company

Water Districts (including town and city water providers)

Various Cellular Telephone Companies

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Purpose**

To provide for the effective utilization of available electric power, water resources, telecommunications, natural gas, propane, and petroleum products to meet essential needs in Island County during an emergency or disaster, and to provide for the restoration of utilities affected by the emergency or disaster.

#### **B. Scope**

The scope of this emergency support function (ESF) includes:

1. Assessment of energy systems and utility damage, post disaster supply and demand, and requirements to restore such systems.
2. Assisting Island County departments and agencies to obtain fuel for transportation, communications, emergency operations, and electricity for critical facilities.

3. Obtaining current information on power and utility status for public information releases.
4. Island County priority will be to protect lives and then to protect and restore critical public infrastructure (including critical energy and utility lifelines, hospitals, water pumping operations, sewage treatment operations, and the environment).

### **III. SITUATION**

#### **A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards**

Island County is vulnerable to the effects of flooding, extreme wind and storm, earthquake damage, and the possible effects of volcanic eruption. These hazards could cause damage that would disrupt the normal supply of electric power and other utilities. Additionally, power and utility infrastructure could be damaged so as to reduce capacity and further slow response and recovery operations. A widespread disaster could make repair teams and material scarce and further slow recovery. While other hazards are possible they are not expected to produce widespread severe disruption of electricity and other utilities.

#### **B. Planning Assumptions**

A severe natural disaster or other emergency event can sever key energy and utility lifelines. This further reduces supply in impacted areas, or in areas with supply links to impacted areas. Energy and utility outages or shortages impacts fire fighting, transportation, communication, food storage, and other lifelines needed for public health and safety.

1. There may be widespread and/or prolonged electric power failure. With no electric power, communications may be effected, water treatment and distribution systems will not operate properly, waste treatment plants will be affected, food storage facilities will start to degrade affecting supplies, and traffic signals may not operate, which could lead to localized transportation safety problems.
2. There may be extensive distribution failure in water, wastewater, and gas utilities. These may take hours, days, or even weeks to repair.
3. There may be panic hoarding of fuel in areas served by severed pipelines or by individuals from neighboring jurisdictions where shortages have occurred.
4. Natural gas lines may break causing fire, danger of explosion, or health (inhalation) hazards.

5. Water pressure may be low, hampering firefighting and impairing water and sewer system function.
6. Island County departments, under an emergency proclamation, will require the authority to go on to private property to evaluate and shut-off utilities that jeopardize public and private property or threaten public health, safety, or the environment.

## **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **A. General**

1. The electrical power industry within Washington is organized into a network of public and private generation and distribution facilities. Through such networks, the electrical power industry has developed a capability to provide, reroute, and restore power under even the most extreme circumstances.
2. The occurrence of a major disaster could destroy or disrupt all or a portion of the county's energy and utility systems.
3. Water supply systems within the county are either publicly or privately owned and are organized at municipal, district, or local private levels. Since these systems are not normally interconnected, emergency planning for water utilities is concerned with restoration efforts.
4. Natural gas within Washington is distributed by major natural gas companies through common pipelines originating in other states.
5. The Department of Transportation (DOT) can access local petroleum suppliers and major oil companies to facilitate the delivery of adequate amounts of emergency petroleum fuel supplies and may be requested through local emergency management channels. (Reference: *Implementation Guide for the Washington State Petroleum Products Contingency Plan*, November 1998.)
6. Normal energy and utility resources will be used to meet immediate local needs. If shortages exist, requests will be submitted through normal emergency management channels. Actions may be taken to curtail use of energy, water or other utilities until normal levels of service can be

restored or supplemented. These resources, when curtailed, will be used to meet immediate and essential emergency needs (e.g. hospitals, shelters, emergency operations, food storage, etc.).

7. Energy and utility information will be furnished to the county public information officer (PIO) in the emergency operations center (EOC) (when activated) so that the public will receive accurate and official information on the status of utilities.
8. As needed or requested, energy and utility representatives will compile post-emergency damage assessment reports and transmit them to the County EOC.
9. The Governor may direct any state or local governmental agency to implement programs relating to the consumption of energy, as deemed necessary to preserve and protect public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize to the fullest extent possible the injurious economic, social and environmental consequences of such energy supply alert. (RCW 43.21G.040)

*"To protect the public welfare during a condition of energy supply alert or energy emergency, the executive authority of each state or local agency is authorized and directed to take action to carry out the orders issued by the Governor.....a local governmental agency shall not be held liable for any lawful actions consistent with RCW 43.21G.030.....in accordance with such orders issued by the Governor." (RCW 43.21G.050)*

**B. Organization**

1. The county has no capability to repair and restore water and wastewater systems. It will depend on municipal, special utility district operators, and contract operators to meet all emergency repair needs.
2. Power, telecommunications, natural and compressed gas suppliers and other similar power or fuel suppliers have company repair and restoration capabilities that will be dispatched for initial disaster response and recovery work. Additional teams may be available from other unaffected parts of the state or other states. In the case of severe storms, when sufficient prediction allows, these teams may be staged in the projected impact areas to quickly begin restoration and repair.

**C. Procedures**

1. Initial damage assessments will be made by municipal, county, water, telecommunications, and power company teams. Company damage assessments will be made available to the DEM or EOC (if activated).
2. Utility companies will plan for and request additional restoration resources through established commercial and industry procedures.
3. County requests for emergency resources such as generators, fuel, and other consumable supplies will be made to the State EOC.

**V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. Local**

1. Lead – DEM and Public Works
  - a. Maintain liaison with local utilities, including the ability to contact representatives on a 24-hour a day basis.
  - b. Coordinate assistance to support local utility and energy providers, as requested.
  - c. Clear roads, bridges, and water terminals for the transportation of emergency repair teams and equipment.
  - d. Coordinate fuel needs for transportation, communications, emergency operations, and other critical facilities.
2. Water and Waste Management - Municipal Utilities, and Private Suppliers
  - a. Maintain and control water, sewer, and solid waste systems within their jurisdictions.
  - b. Perform damage assessment on systems and identify problems or shortfalls in water supply. Report findings to the county EOC.

- c. Declare an emergency and regulate water and utility usage in times of shortages, as appropriate or as directed. Assure priority supply to meet essential emergency needs.
- d. Within available resources, protect existing water supplies and restore damaged systems.
- e. Identify potential public health issues to the Island County Public Health Department.
- f. Prepare appropriate disaster assistance forms for submittal to appropriate state and federal agencies.

3. Public Information

Coordinate all public information and instructions and media relations as defined in IC CEMP Basic Plan, ESF #15, External Affairs/Public Information.

4. Other Utility Providers

- a. Continue to operate in the tradition of self-help and inter-service mutual aid before calling for area, regional, or state assistance.
- b. Comply with the established priority scheme relating service restoration. Prepare for the curtailment or reduction of customer service in order to maintain critical or priority systems and service to critical facilities.
- c. In conjunction with the County EOC Operations Section, determine priorities among users if adequate utility supply is not available to meet all essential needs.
- d. Make initial damage assessments and provide information necessary for

compiling damage and operational capability reports.

**B.** State

1. State EMD

- a. Alerts appropriate state agencies of the possible requirement to supplement local energy and utility needs.
- b. Coordinates with the Utilities and Transportation Commission to provide supplemental assistance to local government.

**C.** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Coordinates the activities of federal agencies having supplemental energy and utility resources capabilities during a presidentially declared emergency or disaster.

**VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. A detailed discussion of required response resources would be difficult and highly speculative due to the range of services involved and the many types and levels of possible damage.
- B. In all cases, suppliers of most utilities have existing contingency and restoral plans that include labor and material. Inclusion of all these plans in this document is not appropriate

**VII. REFERENCES**

- A. Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).
- B. Implementation Guide for the Washington State Petroleum Products Contingency Plan, November 1998.
- C. Island County CEMP, References

**VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

See Island County CEMP, References, Definitions and Acronyms