

ESF 12: Energy and Utilities

Primary Agency

Pacific County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA)

Support Agencies

Pacific County PUD #2
Pacific County Department of Public Works (DPW)
Municipal Public Works Departments
Water and Waste Management Providers

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

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

B. Scope

1. The scope of this ESF includes:
 - a. Assessment of energy, utility, and telecommunications system damage, supply, demand, and requirements to restore such systems.
 - b. Assisting county and city departments and agencies obtain fuel for transportation, communications, emergency operations, and other critical facilities.
 - c. Assisting energy suppliers and utilities obtain equipment, specialized labor, and transportation to repair or restore utility systems.

C. Policies

1. The PCEMA priority will be to protect lives and public property including critical energy and utility lifelines and the environment.

II. Situations and Assumptions

1. Situations
A natural disaster or other significant event can sever key energy and utility

lifelines, constraining supply in impacted areas, or in areas with supply links to impacted areas, and also affect firefighting, transportation, communication, and other lifelines needed for public health and safety.

A. Assumptions

1. There may be widespread and/or prolonged electric power failure. With no electric power, communications may be affected.
2. There may be extensive pipeline failure in water, and wastewater utilities. These may take hours, days, or even weeks to repair.
3. There may be hoarding of fuel by individuals should shortages occur.
4. Water pressure may be low, hampering firefighting and impairing sewer system function.
5. County and city departments, under Emergency Proclamation, may need the authority to go on private property to evaluate and repair utilities that jeopardize public and private property or threaten public health or the environment.

III. Concept of Operations

A. The occurrence of a major disaster could destroy or disrupt all or a portion of the countywide energy and utility systems.

1. The energy industry within Washington is organized into a network of public and private generation and distribution facilities for electrical energy and petroleum supplies. These networks are subject to the requirements of RCW 43.21 G, which deals with energy emergencies.
2. Water supply systems within the county are either publicly or privately owned and are organized at municipal, special district, or local private levels. These systems are not normally interconnected, and emergency planning for water utilities will be concerned with restoration efforts.

B. To the maximum extent possible during a disaster, existing utility and energy systems will continue to provide services through their normal means.

C. Energy and utility resources will be used to meet immediate local needs. If shortages exist, requests to meet needs 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 first be used to meet immediate essential life sustaining emergency needs (e.g. hospitals, etc.) and emergency response needs

(Emergency Operations Center, Fire Stations, etc.).

- D. Energy and utility information will be furnished to emergency government officials at all levels to inform the public on proper use of services.
- E. As needed or requested, energy and utility representatives will compile post-emergency damage assessment reports and transmit them to PCEMA.
- F. 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 injurious economic, social and environmental consequences of such an energy supply alert. (RCW 43.21G.040)
 - 1. *"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)

IV. Organization

The Pacific County EOC operates under principles of the incident command system. The Liaison position will be filled upon activation of the EOC in coordination with an emergency relating to energy or utilities. The Liaison will be the primary contact for energy and utility agencies and jurisdictions.

V. Actions

A. Initial

- 1. Coordinate ESF 2 within the Operations Section of the Pacific County EOC and/or at other locations as required.
- 2. Coordinate needs and response actions with each utility agency.
- 3. Establish and maintain of a system to support on-scene direction/control and coordination with the State EOC or other coordination entities as appropriate.
- 4. Utilize evacuation, deployment, or demobilization routes to the extent possible.
- 5. Coordinate with support agencies to develop, prioritize, and implement strategies for the initial response to EOC requests. Emergency Medical Services may provide transportation for medically critical or other special needs persons.
- 6. Establish communications with appropriate field personnel to ensure readiness for timely response.

7. Maintain situational awareness regarding utility support for threatened and/or impacted areas to determine post-event effect on emergency services.
 8. Monitor and direct utility resources and response activities to include pre-positioning for response/relocation due to the potential impact(s) of the emergency situation.
 9. Participate in EOC briefings, development of Incident Action Plans, and Situation Reports, and meetings.
 10. Coordinate with support agencies, as needed, to support emergency activities.
 11. Obtain other resources through state or regional Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreements.
 12. Upon request, coordinate all resources into the affected areas from designated staging areas.
 13. Relay all emergency traffic conditions/regulations to all affected personnel.
 14. Report to the EOC any traffic control signs/signals needed at locations for general navigation through and around the disaster area.
- B. Continuing
1. Contact each utility agency for initial damage assessment of personnel, equipment, and supplies.
 2. Maintain documentation of all reported damage by utility agencies.
 3. Continue to provide support as required until response activities are concluded or until they can be managed and staffed by the primary incident agency or Jurisdictions.
 4. Initiate financial reimbursement process for recovery activities when such support is available.
 5. Assist in recovery operations of the EOC.
 6. Coordinate with the All Hazards Mitigation Committee to identify potential hazards and their impacts, include in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan and seek funding.
 8. Provide personnel with the appropriate expertise to participate in activities designed to reduce or minimize the impact of future disasters.
 9. Conduct planning with ESF 12 support agencies and other emergency support functions to refine transportation operations.
 10. Provide rapid damage assessment reports per field surveys.

11. Prepare and maintain emergency operating procedures, resource inventories, personnel rosters, and resource mobilization information necessary for implementation of the responsibilities of the lead agency.
12. Manage inventory of equipment and other pre-designated assets that are essential to meet utility needs of special needs groups.
13. Maintain a list of ESF 12 assets that can be deployed during an emergency; refer to the NIMS Resource Typing in organizing these resources.
14. Assign and schedule sufficient personnel to implement ESF 12 tasks for an extended period of time.
15. Ensure lead agency personnel are trained in their responsibilities and duties.
16. Develop and implement emergency response and transportation strategies.
17. Maintain liaison with support agencies, conduct All Hazards training and exercises involving the Operations Section.

VI. Responsibilities

A. Primary Agency

1. Pacific County Emergency Management Agency
 - a. Through the EOC, maintain Liaison with local utilities, including the ability to contact on a 24-hour a day basis.
 - b. Coordinate assistance to support local utility and energy providers, as requested.
 - c. Coordinate all public information and instructions and media relations as defined in ESF #15 External Affairs, as requested.

B. Support Agencies

1. Departments of Public Works, Water and Waste Management, Municipal Utilities, Special Districts, and Private Purveyors
 - 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 systems. Report findings and regular updates to the EOC.

- c. Regulate water and utility usage in times of shortages, as appropriate, assuring priority use to meet immediate and essential emergency needs.
 - d. Within available means, protect existing water supplies and restore damaged systems.
 - e. Identify potential areas for mitigation strategy.
 - f. Prepare appropriate disaster assistance forms for submittal to appropriate state and federal agencies.
 - g. As applicable, coordinate fuel needs for transportation, communications, emergency operations, and other critical facilities.
 - h. Continue to operate in the tradition of self-help and inter-service mutual aid before calling for area, regional, or state assistance.
 - i. In conjunction with EOC operations, determine priorities among users if adequate utility supply is not available to meet all essential needs.
 - j. Comply with the prevailing priority plan for curtailment of customer demands or loads, restoration of services, and provision of emergency services for other utilities and systems.
 - k. Provide information necessary for compiling damage and operational capability reports.
2. Washington State Emergency Management Division
- 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 private utilities systems.

VII. References

- A. *The National Response Framework, ESF #12 - Energy*
- B. *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*

VIII. Attachments

None.