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## IA 1 – Weather Emergencies

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## IA 1. Weather Emergencies

IA 1 Tasked Agencies	
<b>Primary Agencies</b>	Emergency Management Fire Defense Board Sheriff's Office Transportation and Development
<b>Supporting Agencies</b>	Health, Housing and Human Services Public and Government Relations National Weather Service Utilities (PGE)

## 1 Purpose and Scope

Clackamas County is vulnerable to a variety of weather emergencies that can cause significant damage and hardship. This annex outlines the tasks and responsibilities required to respond effectively to these incidents and the damage they can cause.

## 2 Policies and Authorities

None at this time.

## 3 Situation and Assumptions

### 3.1 Situation

A major weather emergency is a County emergency requiring notification of Clackamas County Emergency Management (CCEM), implementation of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and, possibly, activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). All weather incidents are managed according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS).

### 3.2 Assumptions

- Weather conditions that may impact Clackamas County include winter storms/avalanche, floods, windstorms/tornadoes, extreme heat, and drought.
- While drought is a serious issue that may profoundly impact agriculture, fish, and wildlife and increase the risk of fire, it rarely creates a situation requiring immediate emergency response and activation of the EOC.
- Winter storms/avalanche, floods, and windstorms/tornadoes may require significant emergency operations to protect life and property and to move residents from harm's way.

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- Periods of extreme heat can be hazardous to citizens who do not have access to adequate transportation resources to protect life and property and to move residents from harm's way.
- All agencies tasked under this annex will develop and maintain internal operating plans and implementing checklists consistent with the EOP and appendices.

**4 Roles and Responsibilities**

The roles and responsibilities for each department in support of emergency services will vary depending on the type of resource, the length of the warning period, and the duration of the incident.

**4.1 Primary Agency****4.1.1 Emergency Management**

- Implement the EOP.
- Activate the Situation Assessment Team.
- Activate the EOC.
- Serve in Unified Command.
- Advise the County Administrator and Board of County Commissioners.
- Facilitate the Emergency Declaration process.
- Serve as EOC Manager.
- Coordinate with city, regional, and State counterparts.
- Request Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES) activation.
- Monitor the situation and disseminate information.

**4.1.2 Fire Defense Board**

- Coordinate fire agency response.
- May serve in Unified Command.
- Provide staff for EOC operations.
- Provide life safety/rescue operations.

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- Coordinate emergency medical services and care for injured individuals.
- Assist in short-duration traffic control.
- Assist in warning and evacuation operations.
- Conduct welfare checks.
- Conduct Search and Rescue operations, in collaboration with law enforcement.
- Report damage, road, and weather conditions to the EOC.

**4.1.3 Sheriff's Office**

- Coordinate law enforcement response.
- May serve in Unified Command.
- Provide staff for EOC operations.
- Conduct search and rescue operations.
- Provide traffic and crowd control.
- Coordinate warning and evacuation.
- Provide security.
- Conduct welfare checks.
- Report damage, road and weather conditions to the EOC.

**4.1.4 Transportation and Development**

- Coordinate public works response.
- May serve in Unified Command.
- Provide staff for EOC operations.
- Coordinate road and bridge inspection and assessment.
- Assist in traffic and crowd control by providing signs, barriers, equipment, and personnel.
- Provide heavy equipment.
- Report damage, road, and weather conditions to the EOC.

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- Assess roads likely to be affected, develop alternate traffic routes, and determine barricade and signage needs.
- Assess emergency transportation routes (ETRs) and determine priorities for maintenance and debris removal.
- Coordinate debris removal from storm drains, roadways, culverts, public rights-of-way, and areas potentially impacting public safety or health.
- Coordinate with utility providers to protect/restore services.

**4.2 Supporting Agencies****4.2.1 Health, Housing and Human Services**

- Coordinate health and human services response.
- Serve in Unified Command if significant health response is involved.
- Provide staff to support EOC operations.
- Assist people with access and functional needs.
- Identify critical facilities in at-risk areas.
- Assist in coordinating volunteer recruitment and deployment.
- Evaluate impact on public health of contaminated potable water sources, disruption of sanitary services, and other environmental concerns.
- Provide public health information to Unified Command/Public Information Officer (PIO) for dissemination to the public.
- Work with the American Red Cross in opening and operating shelters for evacuated persons and services for people with access and functional needs.

**4.2.2 Public and Governmental Relations**

- Provide staff for the PIO and Joint Information Centers.
- Develop and coordinate a Joint Information System.
- Work with local, State, regional, and Federal jurisdictions.
- Gather, prepare, and obtain approval for all communications sent to media, jurisdictions, and employees.

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- Ensure that updated information is provided to the public regarding current weather conditions and forecasts, incident status and response, utility status, routes and detours, traffic conditions, transportation options for those who need assistance, shelter locations and updates, systems for locating family, friends and pets, and actions to be taken to safeguard lives and property.

**4.3 Volunteer Agencies****4.3.1 American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross provides and manages shelter and mass care operations for citizens who are victims of disaster and feeding and support services for emergency responders. The American Red Cross will:

- Activate and operate emergency shelters for displaced citizens as requested by the EOC.
- Provide feeding, basic health and behavioral health services, and welfare assistance.
- Provide an American Red Cross liaison to the EOC.

**4.3.2 Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Services**

- Request that HAM operators report actual or potential weather hazards and conditions to the EOC.
- Assist with Countywide damage reporting.
- Establish an incident-specific net operations plan.
- Provide redundant communications.

**5 Concept of Operations****5.1 General**

Effective response to weather emergencies requires:

- Careful monitoring of weather conditions and forecasts.
- Ongoing assessment of the weather's impact on the County and determination of the areas at greatest risk.
- Close cooperation with cities, special districts, adjoining jurisdictions and private utility providers.
- Regular contact with the National Weather Service (NWS) and other weather-related monitoring agencies.

**IA 1. Weather Emergencies****5.2 Types of Incidents****5.2.1 Winter Storms**

Winter storms are among the most common weather incidents impacting the County and often involve heavy accumulations of snow and ice that make travel dangerous or impossible, disrupt transportation of goods and services, damage trees and power lines, and cause widespread power outages. Dangerous road conditions make emergency response more difficult and complicate the evacuation of people from areas at risk and the delivery of personnel, equipment and supplies to damaged areas. Avalanche risk is generally confined to the higher elevations surrounding Mount Hood.

**5.2.2 Flooding**

Flooding of rivers, streams, and tributaries may occur during periods of heavy rain and/or rapid snow melt (or as a result of a dam failure). The rapid rise of water in a number of rivers and streams would present severe risks to life and property, and any impending flood may require the evacuation of significant numbers of people and animals. Landslides are an associated problem that may occur as a result of flooding along the riverbeds.

**5.2.3 Windstorms and Tornadoes**

Windstorms and tornadoes may occur suddenly, leaving little time for people to react and move to safety. Even with ample warning that a windstorm or tornado is likely, its path may be difficult to predict. Damage from these incidents may be extensive and severe, or confined to a narrow path of destruction, but they pose serious risks to life, infrastructure, and property whenever weather conditions make them likely.

**5.2.4 Excessive Heat**

Periods of excessive heat occur periodically in the summer season and may require activation of cooling shelters to assist citizens

**5.3 Emergency Actions**

In slowly developing incidents for which there is advance warning, CCEM will normally activate the EOC to monitor pending hazards associated with the weather phenomena. If appropriate, CCEM will convene the Situation Assessment Team to gauge the potential risk and determine the appropriate actions the County should take in anticipation of the incident. Depending on the circumstances, the EOC ICS Planning Section may be activated to monitor the developing situation, identify areas likely to be at greatest risk, and develop contingency plans.

Pre-incident operations may include pre-positioning supplies and equipment, identifying sites for sandbag distribution and staging areas, and rotating shifts of personnel to assess rising water levels, ice and snow accumulations, road and bridge conditions, etc. Field personnel will continually report current conditions

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to their dispatch centers and/or the EOC as they provide services throughout the county.

The Department of Transportation and Development, Clackamas County Sheriff, and the Fire Defense Board serve as the primary agencies coordinating response to a weather incident. Primary agencies will work within the PIO structure to coordinate information to the public regarding weather conditions and the safety measures the public should take throughout the incident.

During periods of excessive heat, the Department of Health, Housing, and Human Services may identify vulnerable populations and/or facilities, activate a call-in hotline for people to report their situation and needs, and coordinate with the American Red Cross to establish cooling shelters.

Volunteers may be used to assist in sandbag operations or help with evacuations. Volunteer weather spotters and amateur radio operators may also assist in situation reporting.

## **6 Direction and Control**

### **6.1 County**

Depending on the numbers of people affected, the area and extent of the damages, and the response operations required, the incident initially may be managed from a field Incident Command Post or from Department Operations Centers. As the scope of the damage and response increase, and/or more agencies become involved, overall management of the incident will transfer to the EOC.

When the Incident/Unified Command determines that incident response will require resources beyond those available day-to-day and through mutual aid, requests should be coordinated through the EOC. If time does not permit pre-coordination, the EOC should be notified as soon as possible. If needed resources are not available, the County will request State assistance through an Emergency Declaration.

### **6.2 Cities**

Cities have primary responsibility for the safety and well-being of their citizens and for resource allocation and emergency operations within their jurisdictions. Cities are encouraged to develop EOPs and to work closely with CCEM to integrate preparedness, response, and recovery activities. An intergovernmental mutual aid agreement between the County and cities is available to all jurisdictions that choose to participate. This agreement establishes procedures for requesting and providing mutual aid resources in an emergency.

Cities may request County assistance through mutual aid or through an Emergency Declaration. All city Emergency Declarations need to be submitted to the County for forwarding to the State, as necessary.

**IA 1. Weather Emergencies****6.3 Special Districts**

County officials collaborate with special districts in coordinating emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations. An intergovernmental mutual aid agreement between the County and special districts is available to all jurisdictions that choose to participate. This agreement establishes procedures for requesting and providing mutual aid resources in an emergency.

**6.4 Regional**

The Regional ETRs receive priority damage assessment, maintenance, and repair to ensure that these major transportation corridors are available to move people to safety and to move personnel and equipment for response operations. (An ETR map is available in the EOC Library.)

Clackamas County is a participant in the Inter-County Omnibus Mutual Aid Agreement that provides a framework for counties to request mutual aid from each other in emergencies, saving time and minimizing confusion during an incident.

**6.5 State and Federal Assistance**

OEM disseminates information on potentially dangerous weather conditions through the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS).

The NWS is responsible for alerting public agencies and the general public of potentially dangerous conditions and impending emergencies. The NWS will issue alerts, watches, and warnings, as appropriate, when rainfall and/or snow melt may cause rivers to overflow their banks, winter storms are approaching, or windstorms/tornadoes are likely. The NWS forecast for the Portland area may be found at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/>

If incident response requires resources beyond those available to the County on a day-to-day basis and through mutual aid, Incident Command will request additional resources through an Emergency Declaration. EOC staff will forward the declaration to OEM for submission to the governor. OEM coordinates State resources and response and will seek a State declaration if necessary.

**7 Annex Development and Maintenance**

The Director of CCEM, the Fire Defense Board Chief, the Sheriff, and the Director of the Department of Transportation and Development are responsible for ensuring that this annex and supporting plans are updated at least annually, after every incident or exercise to which it applies, or as changes occur. CCEM is available to assist as requested.

**8 Supporting Plans and Procedures**

The following plans and procedures are currently in place:

- Clackamas County Support Annex 1 - Evacuation

## 9 Appendices

None at this time.

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