

Washington Disaster Resiliency Work Group

Preliminary Report

October 31, 2019

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www.insurance.wa.gov

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Washington Disaster Resiliency Work Group

Purpose of work group (Chapter 388, Laws of 2019)

The Legislature finds that it is critical to better prepare this state for disasters and to put in place strategies to mitigate the impacts of disasters. To address this critical need, the Legislature created a work group to review disaster mitigation and preparation projects in this state and others, make recommendations regarding how to coordinate and expand state efforts to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, and evaluate whether an ongoing disaster resiliency program should be created.

The recommendation of whether an ongoing disaster resiliency program should be created should include:

- What activities the program should engage in.
- How the program should coordinate with state agencies and other entities engaged in disaster mitigation and resiliency work.
- Where the program should be housed.
- How the program should be funded.

The final report containing recommendations to the Legislature, governor, insurance commissioner, commissioner of public lands, and superintendent of public instruction is due by December 1, 2020.

Formation of work group

Each entity identified its representative prior to the initial September 5, 2019 meeting.

| Entity | Representative |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Office of Insurance Commissioner | Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler |
| American Indian Health Commission for Washington State | Lou Schmitz |
| Shoalwater Bay Tribe | Lee Shipman |
| House Republican Party | Representative Matt Shea |
| House Democratic Party | Representative Cindy Ryu |
| Senate Republican Party | Senator Lynda Wilson |
| Senate Democratic Party | Senator Mona Das |
| Resilient Washington Subcommittee | Stacey McClain |
| Washington Military Department | Robert Ezelle |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Department of Natural Resources | Corina Forson |
| Superintendent of Public Instruction | Evan Gaffey |
| Department of Transportation | Keith Metcalf |
| Department of Ecology | Jason Norberg |
| Department of Commerce | Tristan Allen |
| Department of Agriculture | Randy Treadwell |
| State Conservation Commission | Alison Halpern |
| State Building Code Council | Phillip Lemley |
| Association of Washington Cities | Barb Graff |
| Association of Washington Counties | Gene Strong |
| Washington Association of Building Officials | Jon Siu |
| Building Industry Association of Washington | Rick Hjelm |
| Emergency and Transitional Housing | Rachael Myers |
| Public Utility Districts | Matt Stevie |
| Water and Sewer Districts | Tom Keown |
| Commission on Hispanic Affairs | María Sigüenza |
| Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs | Toshiko Hasegawa |
| Commission of African-American Affairs | Ed Prince |
| Governor's Office of Indian Affairs | Craig Bill |
| Swiss Re | David BurtonPerry |
| Liberty Mutual Insurance | Melanie Smith |

Reviewing disaster resiliency activity

In order for the work group to consider disaster resiliency activities within Washington state and around the country, the work group developed an online portal for each member and for the general public to submit information for review. To date 2,500 pages have been submitted for review and information continues to be submitted as the work group studies different topics, the depository of this information can be found [online](#). Please find a list of the documents, as of October 29, 2019, below:

- Alliance for National and Community Resilience
 - Alliance for National and Community Resilience Foundations
 - Building Community Resilience 2018
 - Alliance for National & Community Resilience Fact Sheet
 - Final Building Benchmark January 2019
- Association of Washington Cities
 - Link to Seattle's Emergency Management webpage
- CAA/CAPAA/CHA
 - Joint Disaster Resiliency statement
- Department of Agriculture
 - Disaster assistance fact sheet
 - Coping with disaster brochure
 - Hurricane Michael loans flier
 - Six steps for agriculture recovery poster
 - Emergency support function #11: agriculture and natural resources
 - Washington Rood Emergency Response
 - Summary of Department of Agriculture's roles and activities disaster resiliency
- Department of Commerce
 - Statewide Resilience Activities
 - Summary of Department of Commerce's roles and responsibilities in disaster mitigation and recovery
 - States of resilience
- Department of Ecology
 - Summary of Department of Ecology's specific disaster resiliency activities
 - Summary of Department of Ecology's summary of organizations roles and responsibilities in a disaster scenario
- Department of Transportation
 - Summary of Department of Transportation's disaster resiliency activities
 - Washington Department of Transportation Resiliency Poster
 - RISE attendee poster compilation
- King County
 - King County Hazard Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Summary
- National Insurance Crime Bureau
 - NICB disaster resiliency work group on summary of organizations roles and responsibilities in a disaster scenario
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Link to Shake Alert webpage
- Office of the Insurance Commissioner

- Summary of the Insurance Commissioner's, and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner's, role in disaster mitigation and recovery activities
- Overview of insurance focused disaster resiliency efforts in other states
- Summary of disaster resiliency activities Insurance Commissioner Kreidler and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner are engaged in
- Resilient Washington Subcabinet
 - Resilient Washington Subcabinet information
 - Summary of Resilient Washington Subcabinet's roles and responsibilities
 - Resilient Washington Subcabinet Report 2017
- Washington State Association of Counties
 - Summary of disaster resiliency activities
- The William D. Ruckelshaus Center
 - Vol 1 Road Map to Washington's Future Final Report
 - Vol 2 Road map to Washington's future
 - Volume 3 Road Map to Washington's Future Final Report
 - Vol 4 Road Map to Washington's future
 - Road Map Final report executive summary
 - Washington Coast Resilience Assessment final report
- U.S Government Accountability Office
 - Government Accountability Office Disaster Resilience Framework
- Verisk - AIR Worldwide
 - Modeling Extreme Events
 - AIR Wildfire Model
 - AIR Earthquake Model
 - AIR Flood Model
 - AIR Winter Storm Model
 - AIR Severe Storm Model
 - AIR Cyber Risk
 - ISO US Wildfire Risk Insight Whitepaper
 - ISO FEMA Community Rating System
 - AIR Climate Change Impacts on Extreme Weather
 - ISO Community Hazard Mitigation Resources
 - ISO National Building Code Assessment Report
- Washington Association of Building Officials
 - Other states' disaster resiliency activities
 - Summary of Washington Association of Building Officials' disaster resiliency activities and roles and responsibilities in a disaster scenario
- Washington State Conservation Commission
 - Natural resources recovery support function
 - Responsibilities for Washington State CEMP basic plan
 - Summary of Conservation Commission capabilities
- Washington State Emergency Management Division
 - 2018 Hazard inventory vulnerability assessment
 - 2018 State enhanced hazard mitigation core plan
 - Summary of Washington State Emergency Management Division's specific disaster resiliency activities

- Washington State Public Utility Districts
 - PUD Disaster Resilience activities

Additionally, Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler issued a data call to over 700 authorized property & casualty insurance companies in Washington state for information regarding disaster-related insurance policies. The request included the number of policies and total exposure of each company for earthquake, flood (federal and private policies), landslide, and wildfire perils as of December 31, 2018. The summarized results will be presented to the work group at a 2020 meeting. This information should provide the work group with a general understanding of the Washington state's insurance coverage for natural disaster risks.

September 5, 2019 work group meeting

The first work group meeting was on September 5, 2019, and brought the group members up-to-date with current natural disaster risks threatening Washington state. Presentations included:

- **Geological Risk:** Corina Forson, Washington State Chief Hazards Geologist, Department of Natural Resources
- **Climate Risk and Natural Disasters:** Amy Snover, PhD., Director, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group
- **Flood Risk:** Brian Lynn, Coastal/Shorelands Section Manager, Department of Ecology
- **Drought Risk:** Jeff Marti, Water Resources Program Management, Department of Ecology and Gary Bahr, Natural Resources Assessment Section, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- **Wildfire Risk:** George Geissler, Washington State Forester and Deputy Supervisor for Wildfire and Forest Health and Resilience

Lieutenant General Russel Honoré, U.S. Army, (Retired), Commander of Joint Task Force Katrina, closed the meeting with a keynote address urging Washington state to lead the nation in statewide resiliency.

Future work group meetings

The remaining work group meetings will examine topics required to provide a recommendation. The work group has two meetings planned for the remainder of 2019:

- **October 30, 2019:** Robert Freitag, Director of University of Washington's Institute for Hazards Mitigation, discussed what makes a community resilient so the work group can begin to examine the types of activities an ongoing resiliency program should engage in.
- **December 16, 2019:** The work group will focus on how an ongoing resiliency program should coordinate with public and private entities and will include Washington state business leaders, city, county, and federal authorities.

Following a break during the 2020 Legislative session, the remaining work group meetings will focus on where the ongoing resiliency program should be housed within the government and how it should be funded. The work group will conclude its task by completing a report with recommendations to the Legislature, governor, insurance commissioner, commissioner of public lands, and superintendent of public instruction by December 1, 2020.