

**Services available to local government
and public safety agencies**

How we can help you...



**Grant County
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Sam Lorenz, Director | Michele Haughton, Senior Coordinator | Sandi Duffey, Emergency Management Coordinator
Kyle Foreman, Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer | Mike Shannon, Homeland Security Coordinator**

509-762-1462



Grant County EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1525 E Wheeler Rd, Moses Lake, Washington 98837-9753
Office 509-762-1462 Fax 509-762-1465 Email gcem@co.grant.wa.us

Dear Emergency Preparedness Partners:

Of great concern in today's world is the economy and local government's abilities to continue to provide services when funding is decreasing. Public safety agencies locally and nationwide are finding it harder to fulfill basic and statutory requirements.

Grant County is certainly not exempt from these challenges. Most Grant County fire agencies are either all-volunteer, or staffed by one paid fire chief. Most Grant County law enforcement agencies are minimally staffed as well. Hiring additional staff is simply not possible for cash-strapped communities. What does not change is your agency's need to fulfill government mandates and industry standards, and to ensure your community's safety during emergencies and disasters.

In addition, federal preparedness grant funding opportunities have become incredibly competitive. In order to be competitive and receive funding, the federal government requires applicants to succinctly justify their risk through formal assessment. If you don't have a formal risk assessment and a plan, chances are you won't be funded.

Over the course of the past few years, Grant County Emergency Management has experienced many changes. Although we, too, have the same budget worries as you do, we have been successful increasing our staffing to five talented emergency managers.

As your partner in protecting the citizens of Grant County, I encourage you to utilize the services provided by Grant County Emergency Management. I am happy to share the skills and abilities of our staff, as well as their work products, to help your agency.

Through our services and the partnership we build, we help your public safety agency:

- protect public health and safety,
- reduce the chance and impact of accidents and intentional harm,
- communicate risk to the public,
- comply with government regulations,
- avoid adverse environmental impact,
- reduce liability exposure, and
- improve performance.

Please take a few minutes to read the following information about Grant County Emergency Management, what we do, and *how we can help you*.

Sincerely,

Sam Lorenz
Director



Grant County EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Definition

Grant County Emergency Management (GCEM) is the department charged with creating the framework within which the county will reduce vulnerability to hazards, respond to emergencies and cope with disasters.

Our Vision

Grant County Emergency Management seeks to promote a safer, less vulnerable county with the capacity to cope with hazards, emergencies and disasters.

Our Mission

Grant County Emergency Management protects the citizens and guests of Grant County, Washington through coordinated emergency planning, response, mitigation and recovery for all hazards, natural or human caused.

Our Guiding Principles

Emergency Management must be:

1. **Comprehensive** – emergency management consider and take into account all hazards, all phases, all stakeholders and all impacts relevant to emergencies and disasters.
2. **Progressive** – emergency management anticipate future disasters and take preventive and preparatory measures to build a disaster-resistant and disaster-resilient community.
3. **Risk-driven** – emergency management must use sound risk management principles (hazard identification, risk analysis, and impact analysis) in assigning priorities and resources.
4. **Integrated** – emergency management ensure unity of effort among all levels of government and all elements of the community.
5. **Collaborative** – emergency management create and sustain broad and sincere relationships among individuals and organizations to encourage trust, advocate a team atmosphere, build consensus and facilitate communication.
6. **Coordinated** – emergency management synchronize the activities of all relevant stakeholders to achieve a common purpose.
7. **Flexible** – emergency management use creative and innovative approaches in solving challenges.
8. **Professional** – emergency management value a science and knowledge-based approach based on education, training, experience, ethical practice, public stewardship and continuous improvement.

Services/Functions

- Response Planning
- State and Local Homeland Security Planning
- Continuity of Operations (COOP)/Continuity of Government (COG) Planning
- Risk Assessment/Analysis
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Public Information/Crisis Communication
- Resource Management, Planning and Coordination
- Incident/Event Support
- NIMS/ICS Compliance
- Public Education
- Responder Training and Exercises
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Grant Assistance/Finance



How we can help you...

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION

According to the Washington Infrastructure Protection Plan, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND KEY RESOURCES (CIKR) is a term to describe the following industries, facilities or functions:

- Agriculture and Food
- Banking and Finance
- Chemical and Hazardous Materials Industry
- Defense Industrial Base
- Energy
- Emergency Services
- Information Technology
- Telecommunications
- Postal and Shipping
- Health Care and Public Health
- Transportation
- Water and Wastewater
- Monuments and Icons
- Commercial Assets
- Government Facilities
- Dams and Levees
- Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste
- Critical Manufacturing

The Infrastructure Identification and Prioritization Plan is one of multiple efforts by the Grant County Emergency Management team to assist communities to be better prepared for emergencies, disasters and terrorist events. It moves us one step closer to being able to minimize the impacts of on the people, property, economy and environment in Grant County. It provides an opportunity to identify infrastructure that is important for health and safety of the community, stabilization of a major incident/event, the protection of property, and to facilitate the recovery cycle.

How we can help you: A CIKR assessment and plan serves as the primary justification for seeking funding to support improvements of CIKR protection. Grant County Emergency Management works with the community to identify infrastructure. This is the beginning of the process of identifying, prioritizing and vetting sites they feel are most important to the community to respond and recover from a major incident. Additionally, with the assistance of Emergency Management they will be able to provide input into impacts on people, property, the economy and the environment of identified infrastructure.

Direct terrorist attacks and natural, manmade, or technological hazards could produce catastrophic losses in terms of casualties, property destruction, and economic effects, as well as profound damage to public morale and confidence.

A ranking of how the community feels about response, recovery, public health and safety, public confidence, and the economy during emergencies, disasters and terrorist events will be layered on identified infrastructure. This will create a template of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources valued to the community.

Emergency Management will apply community input into a BASIC VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT which includes factors such as:

- Level of Visibility,
- Criticality of Target Site to the Jurisdiction,
- Access to the Target,
- Population, and
- Potential for Collateral Mass Casualties.

The results will be shared with the community and may be used as a tool to aid in planning for and responding to major incidents/events impacting the livelihood of communities in Grant County.

A safe and secure Washington is everyone's responsibility. Protecting CIKR and/or minimizing the impacts of emergencies and disasters, including terrorist attacks on CIKR is essential for making our communities safer, more secure and resilient to the threat of any natural or manmade hazard. Protection includes actions to detect, prevent, deter or mitigate the affects of such events.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

The reason for having an emergency plan is simple: to save lives and protect property. The aim of community emergency planning is to reduce the risk to, and potential impact from emergencies and disasters. Planning does this by walking community officials and other agencies through a process to pre-identify hazards and likely threats; to locate the resources and equipment that will be needed should disaster strike; to establish an organization to quickly and efficiently coordinate help when help is needed; and to create a system to inform citizens of the dangers and how best to protect themselves.

Some examples of a community emergency:

Natural Emergencies:

- Blizzard
- Ice Storm
- Heat Wave
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Wildfire
- Tornado
- Disease

Technological Emergencies:

- Structural collapse
- Power or energy failure
- Transportation accident
- Large explosion
- Hazardous material leak
- Large-scale industrial accident
- Nuclear reactor accident

Conflict Based Emergencies:

- Terrorism
- Civil unrest

The reason for having an emergency plan is simple: to save lives and protect property. Planning is the key to recovery.

The initial response is critical in an emergency, and it is at the community level that initial response takes place. So, it is the community that has to prepare the emergency plan and execute it.

A three-car accident on your main street is probably not a community emergency. It is a *community emergency* when the accident involves a tanker truck carrying dangerous chemicals which leak into the atmosphere or the community's sewer system. That sort of incident would require a coordinated response from not only police, fire and EMS, but also a hazardous materials team, public works, health district, environmental protection, and perhaps the state and federal governments. This incident would require an effective mechanism for response and recovery through emergency management, which is exactly what effective emergency planning can provide.

How we can help you: Grant County Emergency Management can assist your jurisdiction in developing emergency plans that are most suitable to your specific circumstances. Emergency planning helps community officials anticipate problems and possible solutions. Simply knowing the available resources, their capabilities, responsibilities and how to use them effectively can help save lives and property, reduce damage, and speed your community's recovery.

Prudent officials should be prepared for those contingencies. Emergencies can occur with or without warning. Some crises are caused by incidents that happen suddenly, such as an explosion or accidental chemical release. Other crises may be a result of an incident with a slower onset, like severe weather and drought conditions. Both types of incidents can be planned for by identifying your community's reasonable risk to a hazard.

A good plan answers who, what, where, when, and how. It cannot be written in a vacuum or written and then never looked at again. Plan writing, though a critical component, is not the only element of community emergency management. Other important components include training, conducting exercises, and implementing risk reduction measures. Each one helps to ensure that your community and its emergency responders are prepared to face any threat.



How we can help you...

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS/CRISIS COMMUNICATION

Many of Grant County Emergency Management's partnering agencies may be having difficulty fulfilling the necessity and NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) requirements of a Public Information Officer (PIO).

The purpose of a PIO is to protect health, safety, and the environment by keeping the public informed; and to restore public confidence in the organization's ability to respond to and manage an incident.

During an emergency, clear and timely communication can save lives, property, and your agency's credibility. If there is a need to communicate to the public or to use the media to communicate to a wider audience, this must be done by a designated person who has been trained to do so.

During periods of emergency, the public needs and generally desires detailed information regarding protective action to be taken for minimizing loss of life and property. The media will demand information about emergencies and disasters. The local media, particularly television and radio, will perform an essential role in providing emergency instructions and up-to-date information to the public. Depending on the severity of the emergency, or the media's perception of the severity of the emergency, regional and national media will also cover the story and demand information and comment from local officials.

Do we leave it to the news media and others to tell an incident story the way they want to, in "their" professional opinion?

In major emergencies or disasters, there may be many media representatives seeking information about the situation and about response actions. It is the policy of Grant County to cooperate fully with the media in all phases of Emergency Management and cooperate with media to disseminate emergency information to the public. This is outlined in Grant County's COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

How we can help you: Beginning in 2006, the NIMS requires agencies and government to "Institutionalize, within the framework of ICS, Public Information, [e.g., Joint Information System (JIS) and a Joint Information Center (JIC)] during an incident/planned event", and "Ensure that Public Information procedures and processes can gather, verify, coordinate, and disseminate information during an incident/planned event".

Grant County Emergency Management maintains continuing programs which use various channels of communication, including the mass media, to provide needed and desired information about local government activities and services to the general public.

Grant County Emergency Management can assist your agency during emergencies by providing a NIMS-compliant PIO who is:

- Conversant in ICS public information concepts, issues, functions, and structure,
- Trained to function as the onsite PIO at an incident and to implement the PIO role to ICS standards,
- Effective in working with the command and field staff and in handling public information during an incident, and
- Experienced in working with radio, television, web-based and print media.

We may also be able to provide PIO capabilities from within our office if you cannot fulfill the role at the scene. PIOs function regularly at the Emergency Operations Center in Moses Lake during times of emergency or crisis. Our PIOs help keep the public informed, free Incident Commanders to focus on strategy and tactics, augment ICS structure, and uphold the credibility of your agency.