

**University of Washington Chapter to the Washington
State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan**

2007 Update

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Prepared by:



University of Washington Chapter to the Washington State Hazard Mitigation Plan

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Executive Summary

As a state supported higher education institution, the University of Washington is the second largest research institution in the nation and one of the largest employers in Washington State. With nearly 65,000 students, faculty and staff on the main Seattle campus, it has one of the highest density populations center in the Seattle metropolitan area. The University owns and operates over 500 facilities around the state which include numerous academic and research buildings on the Seattle, Bothell, Tacoma campuses, two medical centers, a power plant, athletic facilities, 75,000-seated stadium and twenty research stations. The UW offers a full-range of public services those who visit, learn and work on its three campuses, including medical care, legal assistances, and cultural and sporting events.

Recent events and new research about the nature and extent of the seismic and severe storm threats in the Seattle and Puget Sound region increases the urgency for UW to incorporate hazard mitigation planning in order to reduce the impacts of these hazards. In addition more localized threats such as wildfire can engulf the Olympic Natural Resource Center (ONRC), Friday Harbor Laboratories and Center for Sustainable Forestry at C.L. Pack Experimental Forest. Pack Forest also faces a volcanic/debris flow hazard. The majority of potential casualties and property damage would come from unsecured building ornamentation, building systems and content. The secondary hazards including fire and hazardous material releases will easily overwhelm the University's resources, and every effort should be made in a prioritize manner to address its nonstructural issues.

As a condition of receiving federal mitigation financial assistance after November 1, 2004, the University must prepare a chapter to the Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan with an update every three years. The plan must address natural hazards following a FEMA requirement as set forth in Section 322, Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

Emergency Assistance Act, enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

The UW Chapter to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan will guide the University in protecting its people, its facilities, environment, equipment and systems by identifying appropriate initiatives and projects. It will also provide direction with the implementation of the UW Business Continuity Management program in order to resume normal education and research operations as quickly as possible following a disaster.

The UW Chapter to the 2007 Update of the Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan resulted as part of a collaborative effort of individuals representing University sites. These include representatives from the Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell Campuses, Friday Harbor Laboratories, Center for Sustainable Forestry at C.L. Pack Experimental Forest, Olympic Natural Resource Center and off campus lease spaces. Guiding the development of the Report on Mitigation Initiatives and Projects in the 2004 Plan, and Mitigation Initiatives or Projects for 2007 State Plan the workgroup determined the most important components for consideration University-wide, which include the following improvements:

Protection of Health and Life Safety

- Develop a Mass Care and Shelter Plan and increase capabilities
- Expand Forest or Landscape Management Plans to include annual hazard tree assessments
- Expand and enhance Unit Response Centers
- Conduct risk analysis through the use of spatial technologies
- Continue implementation of nonstructural mitigation measures in critical university facilities
- Enhance the consideration of life safety issues and risks in the Capital Budgeting process
- Continue the fire alarm system upgrade, and retrofitting or upgrading facilities fire suppression systems
- Replace earthquake damage and non-compliant library shelving

Preserving University Resources

- Encourage University units to purchase property insurance
- Expand emergency power system capabilities

<http://www.washington.edu/emergency>

- Obtain x/y coordinates for University owned and lease facilities and infrastructure
- Consolidate information on content of significant values
- Continue seismic retrofit of critical facilities and infrastructure
- Continue abatement of friable asbestos

Promote Business Continuity Planning

- Establish business continuity management program
- Develop business continuity plans
- Assess utility and network systems capabilities and vulnerabilities
- Enhance and ensure interoperable communications
- Develop Debris Management Plan
- Arrange mutual aid agreements with off-campus organizations and businesses

Increase Public Awareness and Education about Disaster Preparedness

- Enhance dissemination of disaster preparedness and emergency information
- Implement risk reduction campaign
- Improve way finder signage
- Test individual Unit Response Centers plans
- Conduct ATC 20 training
- Expand and support Campus Emergency Response Team program

Strengthening the Transportation Infrastructure

- Assess impacts to the University's transportation system in disaster

The hazard mitigation goals and action items highlighted in the 2007 Update Report provide guidance and suggest specific activities that academic and operations units can undertake to reduce the risk and prevent losses. The coordinating units identified in the plan are responsible for areas identified and /or are willing and able to organize resources, seek funding and oversee implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Other participating units identified are those that will require their assistance or will be affected by the action suggested. The 2010 Update will include additional UW sites not included in this update.