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Governor



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**DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR  
16-19**

November 2, 2016

To: Washington State Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Councils

From: Jay Inslee  
Governor

Subject: Preparedness and Response to Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Washington

Protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of Washington is my highest priority and one of the primary functions of state government. State government ensures the protection the public expects, in part, by preparing to respond to problems through diligent cooperation across all branches and jurisdictions of government both in advance of and during crises.

Our state is susceptible to and has experienced earthquakes for millennia as documented in our geologic records, oral traditions of native tribes, and through our modern scientific instrumentation. While we cannot prevent or predict earthquakes and tsunamis, we can be better prepared to respond and recover quickly when these natural disasters do occur.

The state has demonstrated its ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, including wildfires, drought, storms, and flooding, as well as more than one major earthquake. We know that only by coordinating all of our federal, state, county, local, and tribal government resources can we achieve our common objectives. With those lessons in mind, this directive outlines key components to be addressed by state agencies in their charge to assess preparedness and response in the event of an earthquake or tsunami. Through the establishment of a subcabinet group, the Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division, in consultation with the Washington Department of Transportation, the Washington Department of Commerce, the Department of Health, the Department of Enterprise Services, the Utilities and Transportation Commission, the Department of Social and Health Services, and other agencies, boards, commissions, and councils as appropriate will:

- Identify data and information gaps that hinder preparedness and response plans.
- Identify data and information to help guide a strategic public education campaign centered on personal preparedness.

- Develop potential actions that can be coordinated across state agencies, local jurisdictions and federal partners to reduce risk and improve response in the event of an earthquake or tsunami.
- Identify, prioritize, and estimate costs for state actions that will improve public safety and earthquake preparedness and response.

In addition to these general goals, I direct the identified agencies to provide the following support to this effort:

Military Department:

- Facilitate the Resilient Washington subcabinet process and coordinate the state’s effort to enhance resiliency within affected jurisdictions.
- Assign knowledgeable staff to assist in developing a collaborative process to address gaps within the strategy and the implementation of appropriate solutions.
- Develop in advance of the annual State Preparedness Report, a draft report with initial findings and recommendations due June 30, 2017, that addresses these and any other issues necessary to ensure adequate preparedness and response in the event of an earthquake or tsunami.

Department of Transportation:

Lead efforts to address Resilient Washington Recommendation 6, *strengthen regional transportation networks*, and:

- Review and validate recommendations and priority actions found within Resilient Washington State: A Framework for Minimizing Loss and Improving Statewide Recovery after an Earthquake.
- Recommend priority actions and establishing a Resilient Washington Implementation Plan for chosen recommendations based upon validation of report recommendations.
- Review the prioritization criteria for restoring Washington’s transportation network of airfields, state routes, and maritime routes:
  - Assess stakeholder catastrophic response and recovery expectations to update assumptions regarding the operability and restoration of state routes following a catastrophic earthquake.
  - Update and expand prioritization criteria for post-disaster transportation system restoration.
  - Ensure that prioritization is consistent with the needs of mass care, evacuation, and other critical response and recovery activities.

Department of Commerce:

Support the efforts to address Resilient Washington Recommendation 2, *encourage utility providers to identify vulnerabilities in their system and mitigate deficiencies*, through work with energy providers to understand current energy infrastructure resiliency and reliability relative to the potential effects of earthquakes and tsunami to identify opportunities to strengthen the energy grid.

Lead efforts to address Resilient Washington Recommendation 3, *improve the resilience of buildings in areas with high seismic hazard to improve life safety and increase the number of*

*people able to shelter in place*, by supporting the planning efforts of earthquake and tsunami prone jurisdictions in accommodating community housing needs of residents impacted by earthquakes and tsunamis.

Lead efforts to address Resilient Washington Recommendation 5, *strengthen business continuity planning efforts, by providing education*, tools, and training to help businesses develop or enhance continuity plans, with emphasis on supply chain and just-in-time inventory issues.

Department of Health:

Lead efforts to address Resilient Washington Recommendation 7, *make hospitals resilient – structurally and functionally*, and:

- Assess and address the vulnerabilities of hospitals and their supply chains to ensure that they are able to not only withstand the expected earthquake, but also to remain operational afterwards.
- Develop a plan for the health care needs of the affected jurisdictions including but not limited to establishing temporary hospitals and dispensaries.

Department of Enterprise Services:

Plan for the distribution of bulk fuel through the use of master contracts in order to support relief efforts, restore essential services, and re-establish commerce.

Utilities and Transportation Commission:

Lead efforts to address Resilient Washington Recommendation 2, *require that utility providers identify the vulnerabilities in their systems and mitigate the deficiencies*, by assessing and addressing the vulnerabilities of the energy, telecommunications, and water industries and associated distribution networks. Provide recommendations on how to mitigate infrastructure risk and reduce service interruption in the event of an earthquake and/or tsunami.

Department of Social and Health Services:

Utilize the Cascadia Rising Exercise after-action report to develop a Mass Care Operational Coordination Plan Annex to address collaboration among response agencies and organizations to be housed under Essential Support Function 6.

I invite and encourage the Commissioner of Public Lands, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Attorney General, and the Insurance Commissioner to participate in this work. The expertise of their agencies would significantly improve the state's ability to prepare for and respond to future earthquakes and tsunamis.

In light of the potential damage from our many active earthquake faults, we must re-examine our strategy in creating a more resilient Washington to produce a more effective response and recovery to natural disasters.