

# OKANOGAN COUNTY Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

## EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 20

### DEFENSE SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES

#### RESPONSIBILITY SUMMARY

##### Primary Response

Okanogan County Department of Emergency Management

##### Supporting

Okanogan County Commissioners

Mayors

Washington State Emergency Management Division

Military Department, National Guard

##### Plan Preparation & Maintenance

Okanogan County Department of Emergency Management

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. Purpose

To establish procedures for requesting and using military assistance in Okanogan County during times of an emergency.

##### B. Scope

Military units have specialized equipment, not otherwise available to local jurisdictions that may be needed in time of an emergency operation. They also have personnel that might be needed to support local jurisdictions.

#### II. POLICIES

A. There are no military units located in Okanogan County; military support would have to come from outside the county.

B. Their use and activation of military support requires action by the Washington State Governor and any requests for military assistance must be processed through the State of Washington Department of the Military, Emergency Management Division (WAEMD)/ Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

C. Military forces, either state or federal, will remain under and follow their military chain of command.

D. The State of Washington Department of the Military Adjutant General deploys state active duty resources of the Washington State National Guard (WNG) in a state-funded status in response to an emergency involving imminent loss of life, to prevent great suffering and/or to mitigate great destruction of property, in accordance to state regulations and statutes.

### III. SITUATION

- A. An emergency or disaster could occur for which military assistance may be the best or only solution. A request for military support can be initiated to compliment, not substitute for local civilian resources.
- B. Any request for military assistance will be processed through Okanogan County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to WAEMD/EOC.
- C. The county and state have issued Disaster Declarations.
- D. A military liaison person may be assigned to the county EOC or to an area wide (overlapping county jurisdiction) location where a task force has been established to coordinate the use of any military assets assigned to the event.
- E. When an emergency or disaster occurs and waiting for instructions from higher authority would preclude an effective response, any military commander may do what is required and justified to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering, or lessen major property damage or destruction. The commander will report action take to higher military authority and to civil authority as soon as possible.

### IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. General

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.08.040 provides that, upon the occurrence of certain events, the Governor has the power to order the organized militia of Washington or any part thereof into active service in order for Washington State to execute the laws and perform such services as the Governor shall deem proper. This power resides with the Governor or acting Governor alone, and may not be delegated to another person or agency.
- B. Organization
  - 1. The Okanogan County Sheriff is the Director of Emergency Management. The Sheriff/Director is responsible for the Emergency Management Program. The Sheriff/Director is empowered to declare a county disaster or emergency in consultation with the County Commissioners and/or a jurisdictional elected official(s).
  - 2. The Washington State Military Department is made up of two military components: the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard. There are two civilian components: WAEMD and the Support Services staff. The WNG is positioned in 27 cities throughout the state. Unit capabilities include engineering, communications, transportation, and aviation.
  - 3. Coordination of military support to civil authorities will be performed by the Washington State Military Department.
- C. Procedures

The various elements of the Washington State Military Department will follow their internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) when in support of an emergency or disaster.

- D. Mitigation Activities  
Mitigation activities need to be done at the state level and are beyond the scope of this ESF (refer to Washington State Emergency Support Function 20 – Defense Support to Civil Authorities).
- E. Preparedness Activities  
During exercises and other emergency planning activities the possible use of military resources should be considered.
- F. Response Activities
  - 1. When requesting military assistance the county EOC needs to request them for a specific mission. The request should not be for specific equipment and/or personnel. A few examples of mission requests are:
    - a. Provide air or land transportation for specific equipment or personnel.
    - b. Provide security and traffic control for a specific area, such as a city or county road.
    - c. Establish a mobile communications station.
    - d. Set up and operate a mass feeding station.
    - e. Establish a water purification station.
- G. Recovery Activities  
Response activities may need to continue through the recovery phase. However, the military personnel and equipment must be released before any civilian assets, serving the same purpose, are released.

## V. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Commissioners must issue a Disaster Declaration before requesting any military assets.
- B. The county EOC must assign a specific mission to any military unit assigned to the county and designate who, in the field, they are to report to for instructions.
- C. If a military liaison has not been assigned, someone in the county EOC must be designated to coordinate the military operations.
- D. The EOC will ensure that WAEMD/EOC gets a copy of the disaster declaration as soon as one is signed.
- E. Department of Emergency Management will include the potential use of military assets in exercises and other emergency management training.

## VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Request for military personnel and equipment must be consistent with unit capabilities.
- B. Loan of equipment will not be allowed if it diminishes a unit's capability to be self-supporting or unable to perform its basic mission.
- C. Whenever possible, requests for personnel and/or equipment will include its needed organic support.

**VII. REFERENCES**

- A. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.08.040
- B. Washington Emergency Management Division Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), ESF 20 – Defense Support to Civil Authorities