

PLANNING AND LAND SERVICES DEPARTMENT DISASTER RECOVERY PROTOCOL (DRP)

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2014

Department Wide Policy 2014-05



Purpose: This policy creates a departmental Disaster Recovery Protocol (DRP) as requested by the Pierce County Council through Resolution R2014-18. The DRP establishes Planning and Land Services (PALS) roles and responsibilities for implementing short and long-term recovery actions resulting from a declared disaster event such as, but not limited to, floods, landslides, earthquakes and other calamities. The DRP shall be used in conjunction with the PALS Department Disaster Recovery Standards (DRS) to assist citizens recover from a County, State or Federally declared disaster.

DRP Staff Contacts: The following officials are responsible to ensure the DRP and DRS are implemented and to coordinate with the Department of Emergency Management in the event of a declared disaster:

- Director (Primary)
- Building Official or designee
- Development Engineering Manager or designee

Short Term Recovery (Response Phase):

1. Building Division inspection staff shall conduct rapid assessment inspections (Non structural). Structures may be posted with a green (Safe Entry), yellow (Limited Entry) or Red (Unsafe Entry) placards.
2. Development Engineering and Building Division Inspection staff shall conduct geotechnical inspections related to damages caused by soil and/or slope failure.
3. Building Division shall coordinate all response phase efforts with the Department of Emergency Management in accordance with the Pierce County Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14 Disaster Report.

Long Term Recovery (Re-Building Phase):

4. Building Division inspection staff shall conduct detailed structural assessment inspections for structures posted with a yellow or red placard.
5. Pierce County Building Official (B.O.) or designee notifies property owner(s) with results of detailed assessment inspection and substantial damage determination. B.O. refers property owner(s) to the PALS DRS information for repair and/or reconstruction process.
6. Permitting fees shall be waived in accordance with the Disaster Recovery Standards (DRS) Section 2.5.
7. Permit applications associated with the repair and/or reconstruction of damaged structures shall be processed and reviewed in accordance with processes outlined in the DRS Section 2.6.
8. PALS staff shall review all received permit applications for compliance with current regulations to ensure a more sustainable and disaster resilient community post-recovery.

Outreach (Communication/Public Assistance):

9. In the event of a declared disaster, PALS shall provide disaster recovery information to the Department of Communications and Emergency Management for the purposes of communicating to the public on available PALS post disaster recovery processes.
10. PALS shall place the DRP and DRS on the department web page. Copies shall also be provided to inspection staff and available to the public at the Pierce County Development Center.
11. PALS shall provide and maintain current copies of the DRP and DRS at the Department of Emergency Management, Economic Development and County Council.
12. PALS shall provide periodic DRP and DRS training for staff and to the public.

DRP Revisions: Post disaster recovery, the DRP and DRS shall be evaluated for their effectiveness and revised as necessary based on staff experiences and public input.

References:

- Pierce County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14 Disaster Recovery, October 2010
- PALS Department Flood Damage Bulletin #56 (Building Division), January 2010
- PALS Department Disaster Occurrence (Building Division) SOP, July 2000
- PALS Department Responding to Damaged Buildings (Building Division) Policy, January 1996
- PALS Department Building Division Natural Disaster Permits (Building Division) Policy NATDISAS.MP1 1993