

# REGION 5 ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN SUMMARY

2020-2025 Edition



Pierce County  
Emergency Management



# PLAN OVERVIEW

The purpose of hazard mitigation planning is to **improve our community's resilience to hazards and lessen disaster impacts**. Hazard mitigation planning is a process that brings a community together to identify their local disaster risks and vulnerabilities. Then, that community can create long-term strategies to protect people and property from these risks.

The 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan brought together 76 Jurisdictions in a county with over 900,000 community members in its planning process. The plan's goals are to collaboratively:

- 1 **Protect Life and Property**
- 2 **Ensure Continuity of Operations**
- 3 **Establish & Strengthen Partnerships**
- 4 **Protect or Restore Natural Resources**
- 5 **Increase Preparedness for Disasters**
- 6 **Promote a Sustainable Economy**



# PLAN APPROVAL & ACCREDITATION

## PLAN APPROVAL | *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*

To ensure future funding, each jurisdiction in the county requires a FEMA approved and adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan. Each plan must be updated every five years, and the 2020-2025 Plan expires in 2025.

## PLAN ACCREDITATION | *Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)*

EMAP is a non-profit organization that sets standards, assessments, and an accreditation process for disaster preparedness programs to **encourage planning that creates “capable and resilient communities.”**

**Pierce County’s plan considers both natural and technological hazards.** Technological hazards are not federally required; however, Pierce County is an EMAP County and included technological hazards for EMAP accreditation.

# KEY MITIGATION PLANNING TERMS



**HAZARD**

a condition – natural or human-caused – which has the potential to threaten human life, property, and the environment (example: wildfire)



**VULNERABILITY**

the susceptibility of people, property, industry, resources, ecosystems, or historical buildings and artifacts to the negative impact of a **disaster**



**EXPOSURE**

the people, property, systems, or functions that could be lost to a **hazard**. Generally, **exposure** includes what lies in the area the **hazard** could affect



**DISASTER**

when a **hazard** impacts a community and overwhelms that community's ability to cope with injury, death, property damage, environmental impacts, or disruption to essential functions



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A **DISASTER** is a product of...

... a **HAZARD**...

... **EXPOSURE** to that **HAZARD**...

... and existing **VULNERABILITIES**

# ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

The 2020-2025 Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Planning Process brought together: 15 School Districts, 19 Cities and Towns, 12 Fire Departments, 12 Utility Groups, 8 Health & Medical Groups, and 12 Special Purpose Districts.

The community engagement process for the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan organized engagement into groups by geographic regions and professional disciplines. **Regional group engagement** focused on engaging place-based partners in Pierce County with five groups (see *Regional Groups listed below*).

## REGIONAL GROUPS

- North Group
- West Group
- Northeast Group
- Central Group
- Southwest Group

## DISCIPLINE GROUPS

- City & Town Group
- Fire District Group
- School Group
- Special Purpose Group
- Unincorporated Group
- Health & Medical Group
- Utility Group



*Figure 1. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Eight Community Lifelines.*

**Professional discipline engagement** focused on uplifting the diverse skillsets our partners in Pierce County hold across disciplines with eight groups (see *Discipline Groups listed above*). The professional discipline groups are based on the FEMA's eight community lifelines (see *Figure 1 Above*). These lifelines are “the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function.”

# PLAN KEY TAKEAWAYS



The 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan analyzed 21 hazards in Pierce County through:

1

## **Identification Description**

*(the hazard's definition and variations/type of this hazard)*

2

## **Profile**

*(the hazard's location and extent, how many times has this hazard happened in the past, and the probability this hazard will reoccur).*

The plan then described each jurisdiction's vulnerability to each hazard and the risk these hazard pose to those jurisdiction's infrastructure.

# PLAN KEY TAKEAWAYS



This graphic below summarizes the probability of recurrence for the hazards in the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan (see page 4-12 in the plan). **A recurrence rate is the likelihood a hazard could occur again.** Recurrence rates are based on the best available science, historic records, and information from local hazard experts.

Some hazards are more likely to occur each year – such as avalanches in the Cascades – and they have a recurrence rate of about one year. Other hazards – such as tsunamis – are less likely to occur each year and have longer recurrence rate of an estimated 100-200 years.

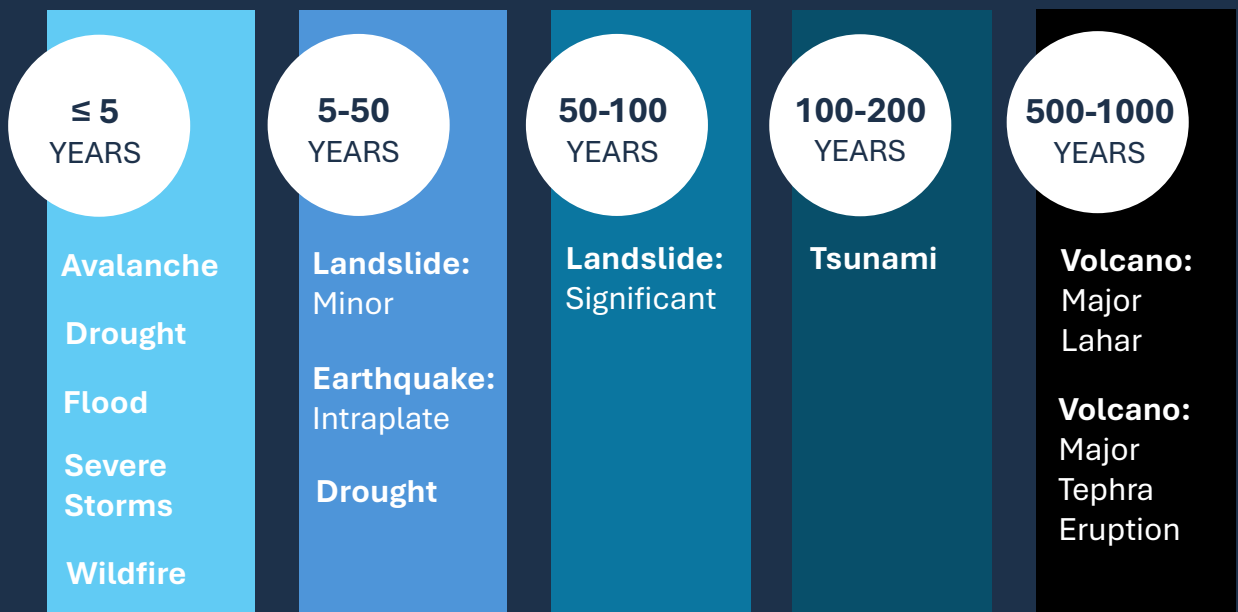


Figure 4. A summary of Pierce County’s natural hazards and the estimated probability they will reoccur.

# FUTURE PLAN UPDATES

The **2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan** listed a total of **21 hazards** and split these hazards into categories: Geological, Meteorological, and Technological. With the upcoming **2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**, Pierce County will reorganize and simplify the plan’s list of hazards by grouping similar hazards together for a total of **14 hazards**.

These hazards are being grouped together to make the hazard mitigation planning process more efficient and intuitive.

Hazard Categories	2020 Plan Hazards	2025 Plan Hazards
Geological Hazards	Avalanche Hazard	
	Earthquake Hazard	<b>Earthquake</b>
	Landslide Hazard	<b>Landslide</b>
	Tsunami Hazard	<b>Tsunami &amp; Seiche</b>
	Volcanic Hazard	<b>Volcano &amp; Lahar</b>
Meteorological Hazards	Climate Change Hazard	
	Drought Hazard	<b>Drought</b>
	Flood Hazard	<b>Flood</b>
	Severe Weather Hazard	<b>Severe Weather</b>
	Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Hazard	<b>Wildfire</b>
Technological Hazards	Abandoned Mines	
	Active Threat/Attack Tactics	
	Civil Disturbance	<b>Civil Unrest</b>
	Cyber-Attack	<b>Cyber Incident</b>
	Dam Failure	<b>Dam Failure</b>
	Energy Emergency	
	Epidemic/Pandemic	<b>Epidemic &amp; Pandemic</b>
	Hazardous Materials	<b>Hazardous Materials &amp; Transportation Accidents</b>
	Transportation Accidents	
	Pipeline	
Terrorism	<b>Terrorism &amp; Extremism</b>	

Pierce County is going above and beyond planning for the hazards highlighted in gold to the right.

Planning for these hazards allows the county’s plan to be EMAP Accredited!