

# Department of Emergency Management

## 2024 Annual Report

This report was designed as an online story map and was not intended for primary distribution as a PDF. Please use the link or QR code below for optimal viewing.

[https://bit.ly/DEM\\_2024\\_Report](https://bit.ly/DEM_2024_Report)



The following is a PDF of the DEM Annual Report.

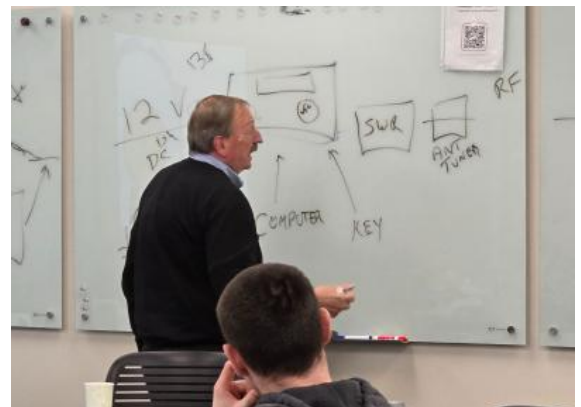
# Snohomish County Emergency Management Annual Report 2024

Published March 2025

## Leadership

### A message from Executive Dave Somers

In 2024 we marked a decade since the Oso mudslide. It remains the deadliest landslide in U.S. history. It also was a turning point in how Snohomish County prepares for and responds to emergencies. With that tragic marker fresh in our minds, it is good to look back and



reflect on how we have grown since, and because of, that event.

Executive Somers helping teach a ham radio class at Emergency Management on a Saturday.

The importance of investing in Emergency Management is a lesson from that tragedy, and it remains a priority for me today.

Compared to 2014, we have a much larger emergency management team, a deeper understanding of the range of hazards faced here, and thousands of more hours invested in training people to make the right moves when minutes matter.

Oso showed us that disasters aren't hypothetical. They happen and leave us forever changed. I remain committed to fostering a County government that takes seriously the responsibility of ensuring all communities we serve are prepared and resilient.

## Director's message

Emergency management is a field of continual growth. Every incident, large and small, provides an opportunity to reflect on how we did and what we can do better next time. Looking back at the last year, I couldn't be more proud of my team. Scroll down to learn more about how the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management:



Lucia Schmit

- Led partners and the public in foundational work to create the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan covering all of Snohomish County. This is a multi-year effort. A key task in 2024 was using an online survey to collect information from more than 1,100 residents and businesses about local wildfire concerns and options for increasing resilience.
- Hosted more than 70 emergency management classes focused on a wide range of skillsets and best practices. In all, 1,710

participants received more than 19,800 hours of instruction. For the second consecutive year that amounted to roughly 40% of the emergency management training statewide.

- Worked with Connect Casino Road to identify and train the first cohort of Community Safety Ambassadors. The team delivered emergency preparedness information to more than 300 Spanish-speaking residents at meetings and during community events. All of the ambassadors are bilingual, and members of the communities they serve.
- Supported recovery from the November Bomb Cyclone windstorm. More than \$18 million in damage was reported to publicly owned infrastructure such as powerlines and roads. Using field visits, an online survey and other tools, the department also engaged with more than 235 county residents and businesses, assisting them in reporting an estimated \$5.5 million damage to homes and other private property.
- Staff, partners and volunteers collaborated to make community events opportunities to train for disasters. Communications tools used for emergency response were deployed at the March dedication of the slide memorial near Oso, enabling live streaming of the event. Similar steps were taken in support of the November general election. On election night, staff and partners were in the Emergency Operations Center, training on multiple scenarios.

## **Vision for 2025**

This year will mark 20 years since Emergency Management became a Snohomish County department. An agency sharing the name had existed previously, but it did not serve all the community. That changed on Nov. 9, 2005 when this department was created by county ordinance 05-123. In the coming year we will continue to collaborate with partners on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the broader Hazard Mitigation Plan. We will work directly with cities and towns across the county to update the key plans

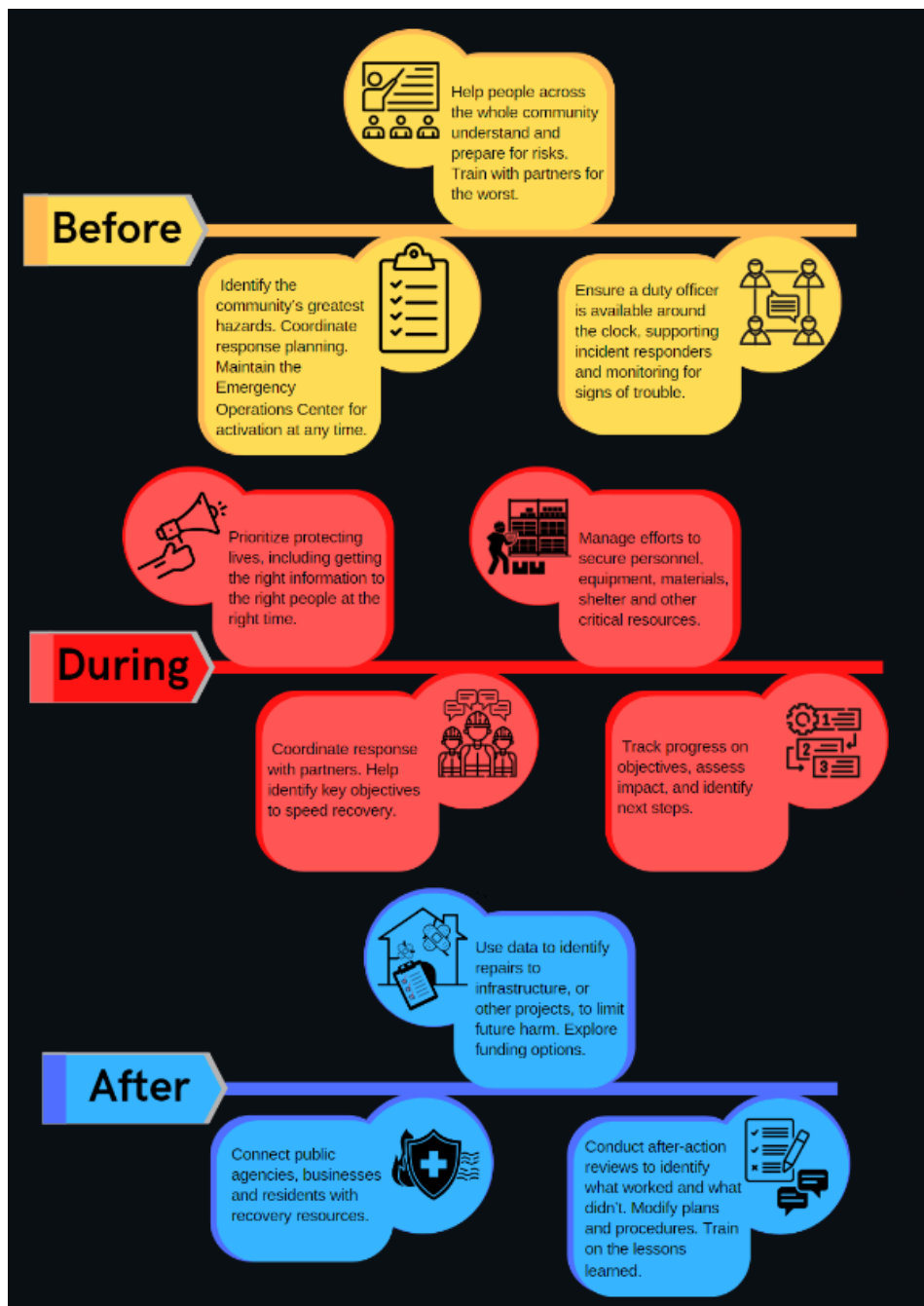
that guide how we work together during emergency response, and kick off a multi-year planning effort for a major earthquake exercise. Meantime, staff will be active in efforts to prepare the region as it hosts the FIFA World Cup in 2026.

## Our role in emergencies



Emergency Management's two response trucks ride high enough, and have enough horsepower, to get people and resources where they are needed most. The rigs are outfitted to serve as mobile centers for work and communications.

Snohomish County Emergency Management focuses on collaboratively limiting harm to people and property from a host of potential challenges, including earthquakes, floods, wildfires, severe weather, and human-caused hazards. In 2024, we provided coordination and leadership in emergency prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery throughout the County's unincorporated areas and in all cities and towns, except for Everett, Bothell and Marysville, which partnered with us using their own programs. Our work occurs before, during and after a crisis.



## Lessons



The 2014 mudslide between Oso and Darrington continues to change the landscape in Snohomish County.

## **A deadly mudslide changed everything**

Snohomish County will never forget March 22, 2014, and the 43 lives lost to the slide that buried the Steelhead Haven neighborhood and Highway 530 between Oso and Darrington.

This department had an important role in both coordinating the response and assisting in the recovery. In 2024, as we stood up to support the community event marking a decade since the disaster, many also reflected on how lessons from the slide had transformed emergency management here. Some highlights include:

- Emergency Management now has 22 budgeted positions, compared to a dozen a decade ago. All staff are cross trained to fill response rolls. Most here now have experience working in the Emergency Operations Center during a crisis, including several who were part of the long activation from early 2020 into 2021 during the COVID pandemic.
- Regular training, frequently in coordination with partners, is part of the department's culture. The result is more people in the County who have the knowledge and skills the community needs most to work together during emergencies.
- All staff are trained on the incident command system (ICS), the nationally recognized framework for responding to disasters.



When bad things happen, that shared understanding speeds response and provides clarity on the roles people need to play.

- Staff are encouraged to join disaster response efforts outside the community, with some deploying to large emergencies across the country (see related story). This translates into more real-world experience using emergency management tools.
- The community has a greater understanding of the range of natural and human-caused hazards here, particularly the locations of known landslide zones, earthquake faults, and areas with elevated risks of flooding and wildfires.
- Staff have mapped natural hazards and the information is accessible to residents, including through interactive online maps like the [Snohomish County Hazard Viewer](#). DEM has also created emergency messaging for each of these challenges and has a fulltime staff member focused on coordinating this messaging with partners. The information is ready to deploy using multiple channels, and in multiple languages, limiting delays when minutes matter.
- The slide's weeks-long closure of Highway 530 showed just how vulnerable the transportation grid is to damage during disasters. Staff here helped lead a regional effort to identify how a megaquake could damage roads and bring down bridges around Puget Sound, thwarting travel and isolating people in what planners call [population islands](#). In Snohomish County, there are more than 50 of these potential islands. A searchable map makes it easier for people to learn more, and to get guidance to help them prepare.



Snohomish County's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 2024 opened a permanent memorial focused on the lives lost to the slide and the community's response to the disaster.



- The slide knocked out communications in the upper Stillaguamish Valley. Working with volunteers from the Snohomish County Auxiliary Communications Service, the department has developed Mobile Information Technology Response Units. These small trailers, light enough to be slung under a helicopter, house all of the hardware needed to generate electricity, connect to global communication networks and to stand up wireless service during emergencies.
- The 2014 slide response was made more difficult because of limited reliable information about the scope of the damage. The County was among the first emergency management agencies in the nation to incorporate uncrewed aerial systems – more commonly called drones – into its response toolkit. It has used them to live-stream images of flooding into the Emergency Operations Center. The department also has dedicated geographic information system (GIS) experts with the skills to convert these images into highly accurate maps for use in response.



The video on the left, captured by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office helicopter rescue team, documents devastation from the mudslide on March 22, 2014. The video on the right was gathered a decade later using a Snohomish County Emergency Management drone piloted over the same terrain. Flights are made now to monitor for signs of renewed slide activity or instability.

## Making a priority of giving back

Many of us in Snohomish County will be forever grateful to the people from throughout the U.S. who converged here in 2014 to help after the deadly mudslide near Oso. Over the years, Emergency Management staff have made a priority of returning that kindness, deploying when asked to help with wildfires, floods and other disasters, near and far. This is a way of paying back the support that we received, and is also a way of investing in our own response capabilities. Our staff returns with real-world experience and lessons that improve our plans and procedures here at home.

Members of our team in 2024 engaged in several national emergency response efforts, addressing havoc wreaked by floods, hurricanes and tornadoes that struck communities in Maine, Iowa, Florida and the Carolinas.



Krystal Craig steps outside for a moment while on deployment in Florida.

Krystal Craig serves as a program coordinator who helps arrange emergency management training opportunities here. She's also a FEMA reservist, and over the past five years has been deployed more than 530 days to disaster scenes.

Craig is a planning specialist for FEMA and takes leave from the County when deployed for the federal government. In 2024, she spent 126 days in that role, helping people deal with disasters in the Midwest and along the East Coast, including hurricanes Helene and Milton. During three of those deployments, the communities she was helping were hit by new flooding and winds, which meant

juggling multiple disasters.

Why does she do it?

"I want to help people," Craig said. "I think change comes from within an organization and I want to be the change."

*I want to help people. I think change comes from within an organization and I want to be the change.*

Krystal Craig

Rob Thurston and Brett Garris both worked to assist others in North Carolina, where torrential rains unleashed by Hurricane Helene brought catastrophic flooding and mudslides.

Thurston is the program manager in charge of our Enhanced Emergency Services Communications System (EESCS) division. He also is a battalion chief with Sky Valley Fire and serves on the Washington State Incident Management Team. He often is called up for weeks each year to help with wildfire emergency efforts across the state and elsewhere.

Thurston deployed with the state incident management team on Oct. 4, 2024 to the Town of Burnsville, North Carolina. That's in the Appalachian Mountains northwest of Charlotte. The team arrived just days after the hurricane struck. Their initial assignment was to establish a base that would shelter, feed and otherwise support 500 first responders, including their team. It also was immediately clear that they needed to provide immediate relief to exhausted Yancey County responders. They'd been working around the clock in an emergency operations center stood up



Rob Thurston on a Blackhawk helicopter during his North Carolina deployment.



in the town's senior center – one of the few buildings available for the task. Electricity, water and sewer systems were all down.

Thurston spent weeks helping with the disaster response, assignments that included managing and distributing tons of donated material. He helped set up a network of comfort stations where residents could use the bathroom, shower and wash clothes. One of the most rewarding days came when the team opened a community point of distribution at an unused shopping center. More than 1,000 residents dropped by between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to pick up sorely needed supplies, “everything from diapers to ravioli,” Thurston said.

While the hours were long and the working conditions difficult, the people of Burnsville were gracious, Thurston said. “Despite the disaster, it was some of the best hospitality I’ve ever experienced. People were so nice.”



Brett Garriss is an emergency management readiness analyst for Snohomish County and has been a member of Team Rubicon for close to a decade. He grew up in West Virginia coal country and was scheduled to visit family for a long-planned vacation when Helene slammed into Appalachia. He knew folks in North Carolina. He told his family there was a change in plans. He spent most of a week working the Helene response in and around Asheville, a community devastated by flooding that caused dozens of deaths.

Garris initially volunteered with Samaritan's Purse, a humanitarian aid organization. He was part of a chainsaw crew, felling storm damaged trees and helping remove debris.

Brett Garris while clearing  
storm debris in North Carolina.

He transitioned to a Team Rubicon work  
group that was focusing its efforts on  
trying to reopen a flood-damaged building  
that previously had served as a restoration center for more than  
200 otherwise homeless veterans. He's now deployed roughly 20  
times to help Team Rubicon in disaster zones.

"I think when there is a huge need for response in general, but  
especially emergency management, and if you have the ability to do  
it, why wouldn't you?" he said of his decision to volunteer assisting  
others.

*I think when there is a huge need for response  
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why wouldn't you?*

Brett Garris

## **Response**



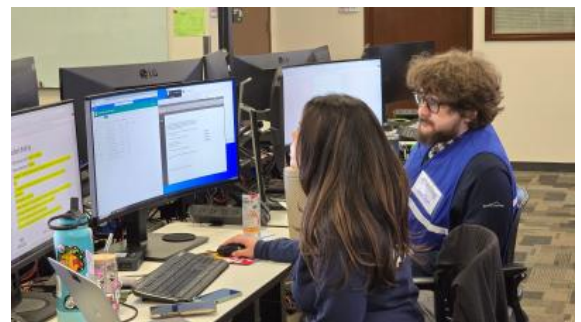
Emergency Management staff joined counterparts from the state, FEMA, and the Small Business Administration in assessing storm damage at nearly 100 Snohomish County properties mauled by the Bomb Cyclone.

## **Emergency Operations Center remains ready to respond**

The Snohomish County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) plays a critical role in the community's response to hazards.

The EOC serves as the central hub for coordination during disasters. It's outfitted with close to 50 workstations, with room for more. All are kept in a constant state of readiness, anticipating the arrival of personnel from throughout the community who are trained to address the wide range of challenges. During emergencies, they come to the EOC to better coordinate countywide efforts to maintain public safety, meet basic community needs, protect and restore infrastructure, provide planning and resource support, and keep residents informed.

The EOC is equipped with video and audio systems that share information in myriad ways, including streaming video from the field and hybrid collaboration with partners off site. The remote-work tools better prepare the EOC for continued operations when health risks are high and when other conditions make travel difficult. The technology also makes it

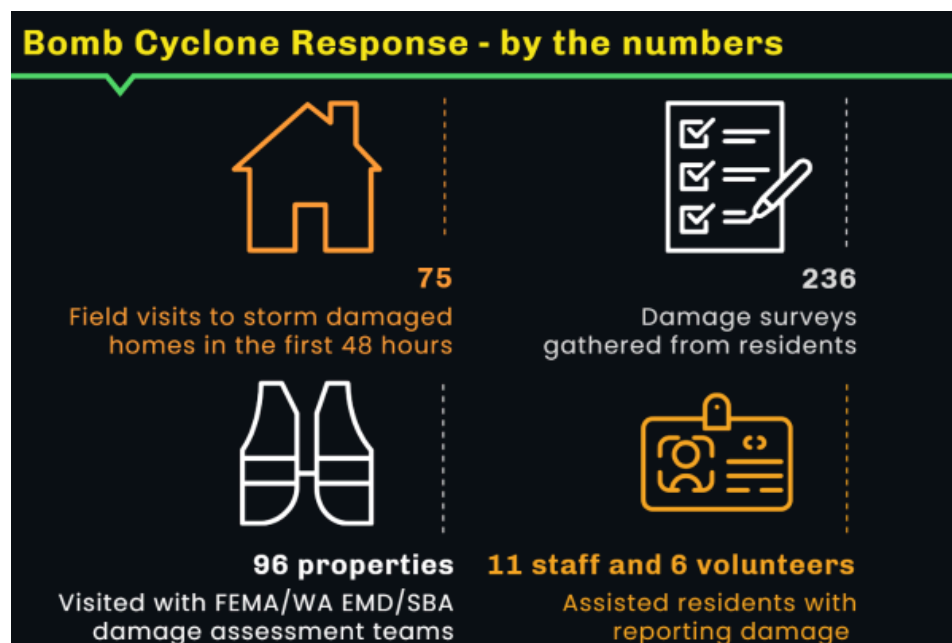


Fiscal supervisor Anjela Boyd (left) and program manager David Fine participate in a training exercise at the Emergency Operations Center.



possible to immediately activate the EOC without waiting for partners to physically arrive before coordination and response efforts can begin. The center also is designed to be rapidly reconfigured should the need arise. Adjacent space in the building, typically used as a classroom or to host large meetings, can be used to grow the EOC footprint and accommodate more disaster workers.

The department stages regular trainings for staff within the EOC. It also works with approximately 500 people at 45 partner agencies and departments to maintain readiness with instruction on the center's capabilities, systems and procedures.



The Snohomish County EOC was not activated for a disaster response in 2024. However, Emergency Management staff and partners spent weeks working to help the community respond to and recover from the November Bomb Cyclone.

## Duty officers help maintain community vigilance

The department manages its staff and their schedules to ensure a duty officer is available around the clock, every day of the year, to support incident responders and to monitor for signs of trouble. The department had 11 staff trained to serve as duty officers and who rotated that duty through shifts. Another three staff served as

on-call duty managers, bringing multiple years of experience in that role.

Duty officers often meet responder needs without needing to resort to a full activation of the EOC.

Duty officers and other staff also respond in the field to support partners, ensure coordination and provide access to assets. During 2024:

- Coordinated efforts to document damage from the November Bomb Cyclone windstorm. More than \$18 million in damage was reported to publicly owned infrastructure such as powerlines and roads. Using field visits, an online survey and other tools, the department also engaged with more than 225 county residents and businesses, assisting them in reporting an estimated \$5.5 million damage to homes and other private property. Work continues with partners to access resources that may speed recovery.
- Supported response to 26 challenges in the community that did not require EOC activation. The list included police activity and hazardous materials incidents, the sudden collapse of a beaver dam, and identifying options when key refrigeration equipment needed repair at the County's evidence storage facility.
- Staff, partners and volunteers collaborated to make community events opportunities to train for disasters. Communications tools used for emergency response were deployed at the March dedication of the slide memorial near Oso, enabling live streaming of the event. Similar steps were taken in support of the November general election. On election night, staff and partners were in the Emergency Operations Center, training on multiple scenarios.

## Training and exercise



Emergency Management staff join partners in the Emergency Operations Center for scenario-based training. In this instance, the group included representatives from the National Weather Service, Mukilteo Fire and staff from Snohomish County's sheriff's Office, public works and health departments.

### Training and Exercise program has regional impact

Emergency Management in 2024 maintained and refined its robust training and exercise efforts. For the second consecutive year, the department was key in staging nearly 40% of all of the emergency management training opportunities that occurred statewide.

The department hosted more than 70 emergency management classes focused on a wide range of skillsets and best practices. In all, 1,710 participants received more than 19,800 hours of instruction. That was a 14% increase in participants from 2023. Department staff also led, coordinated or participated in multiple disaster-focused tabletop exercises locally and around the region.

Courses were offered for emergency responders and residents during every month. Instruction covered more than 30 subjects, including the incident command system, all-hazards response, preparing people to survive an active-shooter attack, readying neighbors to help each other after an earthquake, and much more.

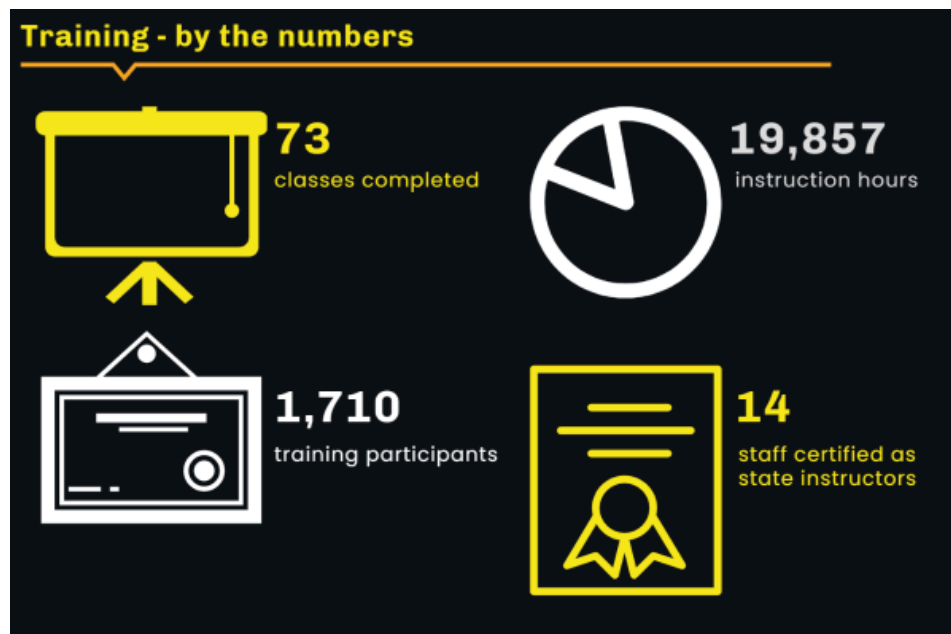
Course participants came from more than 150 federal, state and local agencies and nonprofits based throughout the Pacific



Brett Garriss leads a training in the Emergency Operations Center.

Northwest, including Snohomish County and other Puget Sound communities, Eastern Washington and Oregon.

The department also focused on internal training needs. Monthly sessions were convened for staff on best practices for working in the Emergency Operations Center. Fourteen staff and partners were certified as lead instructors for courses endorsed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Four more staff and partners are working to obtain lead instructor status in 2025.



For the second consecutive year, Snohomish County offered nearly 40% of the emergency management training available statewide.

**ACS**



Snohomish County Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) volunteers gather after deploying a MITRU. (From left) Steve Ramseyer, Mike Holt, Dennis Harding, Mike Kalina, Wayne Connell and Jon Rumsey.

## **Volunteers deliver tremendous skill, value**

Volunteers in the Snohomish County Auxiliary Communications Service provide support for Emergency Management in myriad ways. All are licensed ham radio operators and train to make sure responders can continue to share information during disasters. They also collaborate as a workshop for technical innovation, often designing, fabricating and building necessary equipment.

The team in 2024 continued to pioneer development of the department's Mobile Information Technology Response Units, small trailers which house all of the hardware needed to generate electricity, connect to global communication networks and to stand up wireless service during emergencies. ACS team members custom built each of the units and have been instrumental in deploying and making them operational in the field.



ACS volunteers Allan Persyn (seated) and Gordon Sparks participate in a weekend training exercise.

ACS has more than 150 volunteers, and a core of about 20 regularly staffs the radio room off the Emergency Operations Center, take on projects and respond in support of staff. Using Federal Emergency Management Agency figures their volunteer work in 2024 had a



monetary value of more than \$157,480 for Snohomish County residents. The numbers below only begin to provide a glimpse of their impact.



Volunteers in the Snohomish County Auxiliary Communications Service provide support for Emergency Management in myriad ways. Many are licensed ham radio operators and train to make sure responders can continue to share information during disasters. They also collaborate as a workshop for technical innovation.

## Planning and resilience



Snohomish County Community Wildfire Protection Plan materials distributed at a mitigation workshop.



## Tackling the wildfire threat at home

The Planning and Resilience program helps the community better identify, get ready for and respond to threats that put lives and property at risk.

Much attention in 2024 was focused on coordinating with partners and the public on foundational work to create the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan covering all of Snohomish County. Roughly 130,000 people countywide are known to live in places where trees, shrubs and homes are mixed together in what's called the wildland urban interface. The planning effort will provide fire districts with the opportunity to identify gaps in resources and equipment, while property owners can expect to be connected with options for reducing wildfire risk.

A key task in 2024 was using an online survey to collect information from more than 1,100 residents and businesses about their concerns regarding wildfire risks and their ideas for increasing resilience. Strategies were further explored in a day-long mitigation workshop, attended by nearly 50 stakeholders who represented 27 different fire agencies, conservation groups, nonprofits and local governments from Snohomish and King counties.



Amy Lucas leads a mitigation workshop with partners as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan project.

This multi-year wildfire protection planning effort will culminate with an annex being created for the Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The hazard mitigation plan is scheduled for a 2025 update.

## Drug crisis



A participant at the 8th Annual A Night To Remember, A Time To Act vigil touches images of people from Snohomish County lost to overdoses.

## **Amid challenges, reasons for hope**

Snohomish County's drug crisis is now in its fourth wave. Havoc continues connected to the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which is found in approximately 90% of overdoses here. At the same time, more overdoses are showing signs of polysubstance use, mixing opioids plus stimulants, particularly methamphetamine.

There also are reasons for hope.

When the community's drug crisis was first addressed in 2017, annual overdoses stood at roughly 100. After fentanyl took over, that yearly death toll spiked, topping 270 in 2023. But preliminary 2024 data suggests a nearly 16% drop in overdose deaths compared to the previous year. The decline is believed to reflect all that has been done in recent years to save lives, particularly improving access to the overdose-reversing drug naloxone.

For the seventh consecutive year, Emergency Management has been tasked with applying disaster response tools to help coordinate the ongoing overdose epidemic. Since May 2023, that work has been guided by County Executive Dave Somers' Executive Directive emphasizing the department's role in coordinating a robust collaborative response.

A Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC Group) comprised of representatives from area cities, County departments and nonprofits continues to work on the emergency. Accomplishments include:



Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers (right) talks with Lindsey Arrington of Hope Soldiers at the A Night To Remember vigil.

- Emergency Management staff met with 41 outside partners in 14 sectors, building relationships and identifying priority needs.
- MAC Group members made progress on completing, updating, and refining objectives. The group completed 13 objectives and 16 strategies.
- Distributed \$150,000 in \$7,500 microservice agreements between 15 unique organizations. The funding support naloxone distribution, outreach, training, housing and transportation needs. The money comes from landmark settlements of litigation that arose over the pharmaceutical industry's role in the drug use crisis.
- Launched the Recovery and Hope newsletter, providing regular distribution of information about the drug crisis and efforts made by the MAC Group and others.
- Worked with partners on Aug. 29 to help stage the 8th annual "A Night to Remember, A Time to Act" vigil on International Overdose Awareness Day.

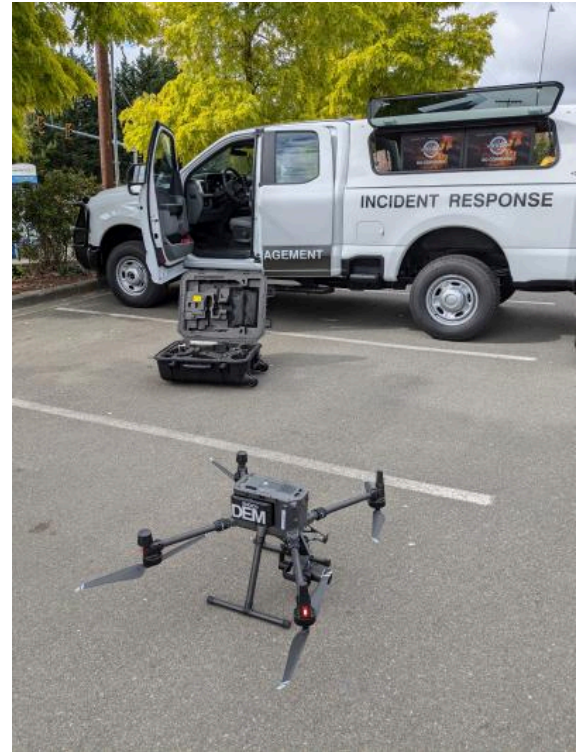
## Supporting 911





survey using GIS technology to document and map locations of reported storm damage. The survey was key in helping connect residents with relief funds.

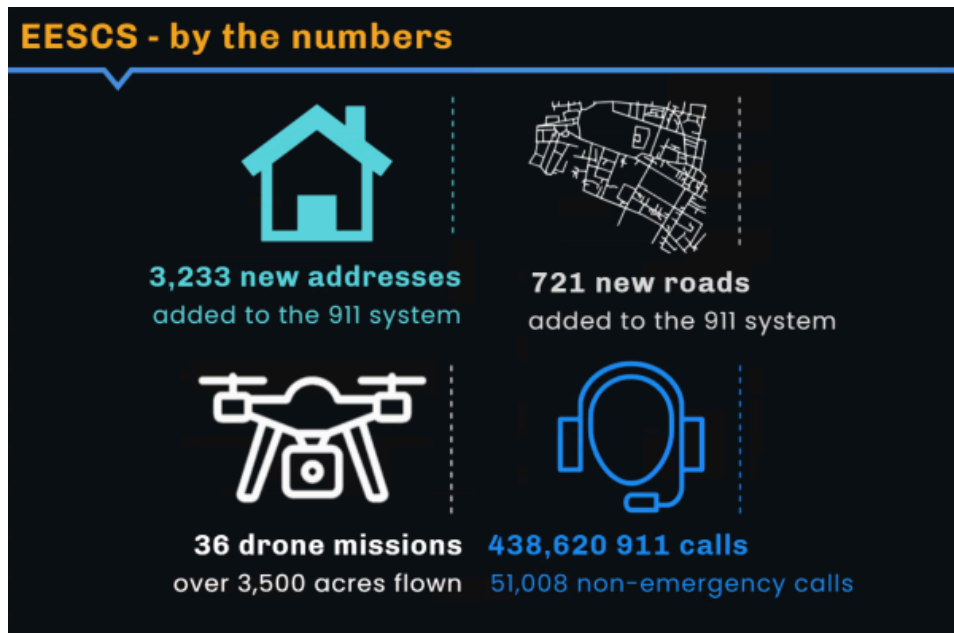
- Brought into service a disaster-ready truck designed to enhance emergency communications and provide support for drone field operations. The truck is outfitted with [Starlink](#), the satellite-based high-speed internet service. It helps ensure drone video and images can be streamed to the Emergency Operations Center and otherwise shared, regardless of damage to local communications networks. The truck is outfitted with two video screens for monitoring drone flights plus battery charging stations for extended field operations. The vehicle also can serve as a wi-fi hotspot for first responders in remote locations.



EESCS staff field test their customized F250 Super Duty vehicle, which was designed to support drone operations.

- Added [ARCGIS GeoEvent Server](#) to Emergency Management's toolkit, improving situational awareness through real-time mapping of location data. Think: knowing the whereabouts of fire apparatus during an emergency, the location of road crews clearing debris after a storm, or aircraft traffic at Seattle Paine Field International Airport.
- Entered a partnership with [Waze](#) that allows pushing real-time road closure information to this popular navigation application.
- Selected to represent the Large Counties of Western Washington on the state Emergency Communications Advisory Board. In this role, Snohomish County also serves on behalf of Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap and Clark counties.

- Principal GIS Analyst Drew Schwitters was tapped to serve as chair of state GIS subcommittee for 911 operations.
- Continued developing the Snohomish County Public Safety Hub, adding more translated content in multiple languages.



The EESCS Office supports the Snohomish County 911 system by adding and editing dispatchable address locations and road segment data for emergency service routing. The EESCS Drone Program assists 911 by mapping new neighborhoods and providing situational awareness for EOC activations.

## PIO and outreach





Outreach coordinator Sammie Keller talks with a Lake Roesiger resident about reporting damage from the Bomb Cyclone.

## Helping prepare residents to respond

Emergency Management's public information and outreach program focuses on helping the community stay safe by getting the right information to the right people at the right time. This mission is accomplished by using digital tools that can reach thousands of residents, and by one-on-one, in-person interactions.

Throughout 2024, staff and volunteers engaged in public outreach at nearly 30 community celebrations, fairs, educational presentations and similar events across 35 days.

A major focus was working with Connect Casino Road to identify and train the first cohort of Community Safety Ambassadors. The team delivered emergency preparedness information to more than 300 Spanish-speaking residents at meetings and during community events. All of the ambassadors are bilingual, and members of the communities they served.



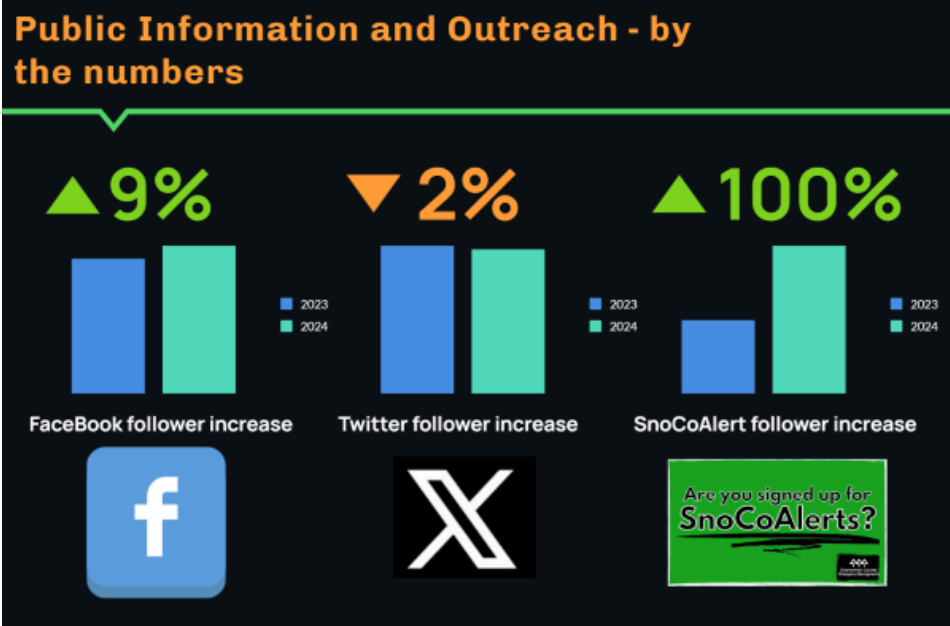
Community Safety Ambassador Jonathan Barcenas delivers disaster preparedness guidance in Spanish to Spanish speakers at Connect Casino Road in Everett

The department in 2024 continued to make use of social media with a particular emphasis on driving traffic to the [Snohomish County Public Safety Hub](#), our primary site

for sharing emergency information, including real-time hazard mapping.

Other 2024 highlights:

- Doubled the number of residents signed up for SnoCoAlerts, the county's tool for sending critical emergency messages directly to residents' mobile phones.
- Continued a public-private partnership with Sound Publishing to create and distribute a Preparedness Guide that went to all subscribers of The Daily Herald in Everett, in print and online, during National Preparedness Month in September.
- Coordinated the Snohomish County Public Information Officer Network. The group's quarterly meetings in 2024 included training for all attendees on administering Narcan to people experiencing an overdose. For the third year in a row, the group also staged a tabletop exercise, this time focused on communications challenges during a wildfire. PIOs from 23 agencies from throughout Snohomish and King counties participated in the exercise.



Emergency Management has 7,300 followers on Facebook and more than 8,900 on X (formerly Twitter). More than 22,500 people have now signed up for SnoCoAlerts – roughly twice the number this time last year.

## Partnerships



Community partners from Snohomish and King counties gather to discuss wildfire protection planning.

## Emergency Management Advisory Board

The Snohomish County Emergency Management Advisory Board is codified in County code. Voting members include the chief executive or administrator (or their designee) from each city, town,

or Tribe that contracts with the County through interlocal agreements for emergency management services. Among other duties, the board provides advice on emergency management plans, the department's budget, grant applications and charges paid by contracting agencies. The board met quarterly throughout 2024. It is chaired by Snohomish Mayor Linda Redmon.

## **Emergency Management Coordinating Committee**

Pursuant to Snohomish County Code 2.36.085, the Emergency Management Coordinating Committee exists to foster alignment on emergency management issues across Snohomish County government and to provide advice to enhance preparedness for all County employees, departments and elected County officials. The committee met quarterly during 2024.

It's work is guided by these goals:

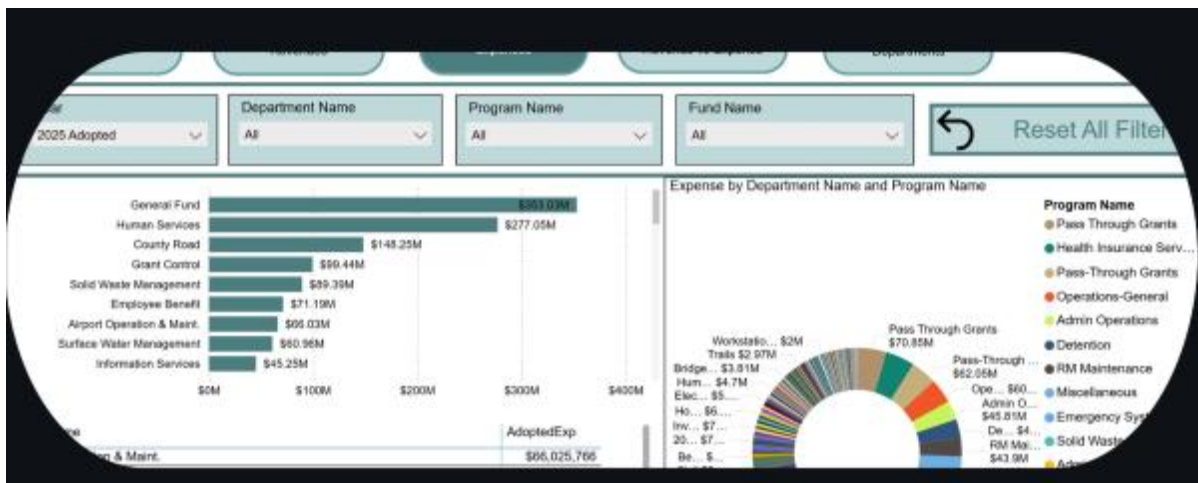
- Equity and inclusion in all phases of emergency management.
- Improving coordination across Snohomish County government in all phases of emergency management.
- Addressing gaps identified by the ongoing assessment of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).
- Identifying private sector and community partner assets and incorporating them into disaster management plans. Establish necessary resources for implementation.
- Increasing use of evidence-based decision making during all phases of emergency management to make better use of resources.



Gold Bar Mayor Steve Yarbrough (left) and Emergency Management program manager Jarrod Dibble inspect a levee along the Wallace River.

The department in 2023 recommended forming an Emergency Management Working Group, with County staff and partners meeting monthly throughout the year. The focus of the working group is collaboration across County departments and offices to develop and update emergency management plans and procedures, and to ensure an accurate understanding of countywide capabilities. The working group serves as a forum for each department and separately elected office to become more familiar with their responsibilities during emergencies or disasters, and to discuss training and exercise opportunities that could benefit all of County government.

## Finance



Snapshot from the Snohomish County government budget dashboard.

## Maintaining transparency, stewardship

Administration and Finance plays a critical role in the success of Emergency Management, as it ensures the efficient allocation of resources and the ability to respond effectively during crises. Grant funding continues to be a crucial source of financial support, enabling the department to maintain its preparedness and response capabilities. The budget reflects the total amount of grants that Emergency Management has applied for, and awards

have often been less than budgeted over the years, requiring spending adjustments. The department anticipates 2025 to bring more grant related challenges. Close monitoring of spending will continue to be critical.

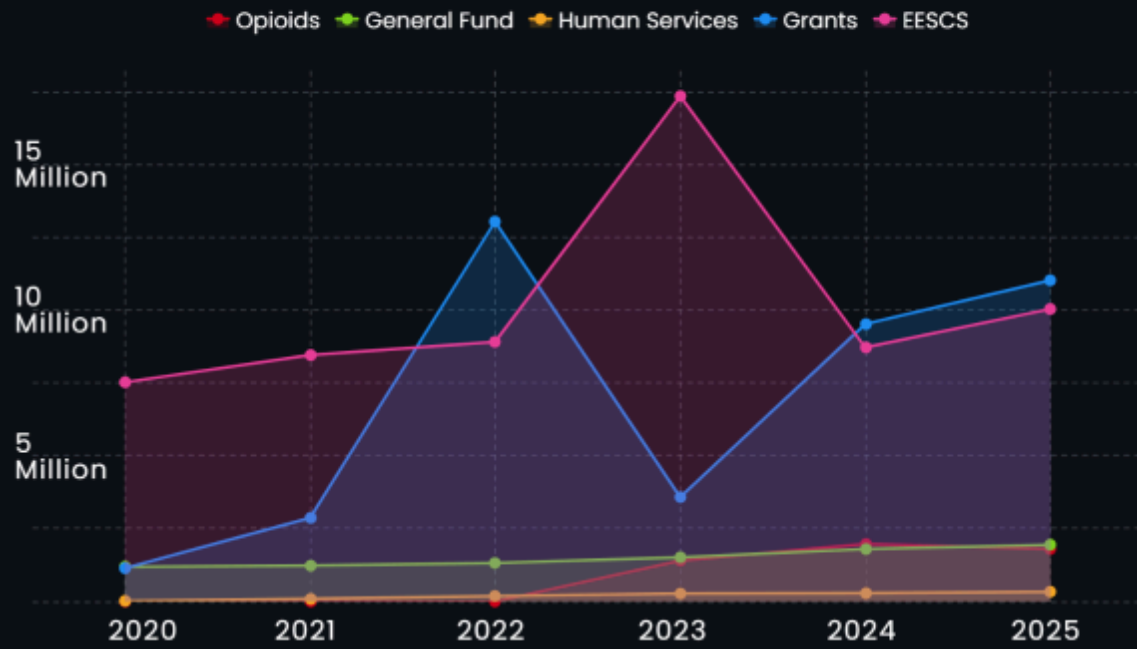
The table below shows Emergency Management's authorized expenditures by funding source in recent years. The department in 2024 remained within its adopted budget, with just over \$21 million in expenditures by year's end.

Administration and Finance highlights 2024:

- Awarded the Individual Assistance Grant Agreement from the state, ensuring critical funding for community disaster relief efforts.
- Streamlined fiscal processes, improving overall efficiency and accuracy in financial management.
- Implemented new forms and internal record-keeping systems, enhancing organization and accessibility of critical documents.
- Focused on staff professional development through participation in conferences and specialized training, fostering growth and experience within the team.



## Finance - by the numbers



Year	2020	2021
Opioids	0	0
General Fund	\$1,189,974	\$1,231,155
Human Services	\$20,052	\$87,473
Grants	\$1,141,051	\$2,870,604
EESCS	\$7,527,691	\$8,460,625
Total	\$9,878,678	\$12,649,857

This table shows Emergency Management’s authorized expenditures by funding source in recent years. The department in 2024 remained well within its adopted budget, with just over \$21 million in expenditures by year’s end. Note: EESCS funding for 2023 reflected approximately \$8 million for the new countywide dispatch center.

2022	2023	2024
0	\$1,400,000	\$1,972,808
\$1,322,695	\$1,518,370	\$1,798,265

2022	2023	2024
\$187,319	\$271,780	\$284,962
\$13,046,114	\$3,580,270	\$9,527,781
\$8,915,249	\$17,358,034	\$8,725,301
\$23,471,377	\$24,130,477	\$22,311,141

This table shows Emergency Management’s authorized expenditures by funding source in recent years. The department in 2024 remained well within its adopted budget, with just over \$21 million in expenditures by year’s end. Note: EESCS funding for 2023 reflected approximately \$8 million for the new countywide dispatch center.

2025
\$1,799,475
\$1,947,943
\$333,577
\$11,029,621

2025
\$10,043,711
\$25,156,352

This table shows Emergency Management’s authorized expenditures by funding source in recent years. The department in 2024 remained well within its adopted budget, with just over \$21 million in expenditures by year’s end. Note: EESCS funding for 2023 reflected approximately \$8 million for the new countywide dispatch center.

## Contact us



Snohomish County Emergency Management staff in December 2024. (Back row, from left) Jarrod Dibble, program manager; Scott North, public information officer; David Fine, program manager; Rebecca Carpenter, program analyst; Sammie Keller, program coordinator; Melody Ovard, senior GIS analyst; Dara Salmon, deputy director; Drew Schwitters, principal GIS analyst; Jayme Haselow, program coordinator; Rob Thurston, EESCS manager; Lucia Schmit, Emergency Management director. (Front row, from left) Scott Honaker, communications coordinator; Brett Garris, program analyst; Amy Lucas, program manager; Anjelah Boyd, fiscal supervisor; Jinky Yago, administrative specialist; Rachel Smith, program coordinator; Krystal Craig, program coordinator. (Not pictured) Daria Gruzdeva, administrative specialist.

## Contact Us

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