

## **Update of Region 5 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The Dieringer School District, in conjunction with 69 cities, towns, special purpose districts (fire, utility, school, port, etc.) and private non-profits in Pierce County, is participating in the update of their existing Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once the Updated Plan is adopted by the Dieringer School District Board of Directors, in conjunction with 69 cities, towns, special purpose districts (fire, utility, school officials and approved by Washington State Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency, our jurisdiction will be eligible for Pre and Post Disaster Hazard Mitigation Funds from the Federal Government.

Hazard Mitigation is defined as “those actions taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to people, property, social infrastructure, or the environment from hazards and their effects.” This could involve such projects as relocating buildings out of a floodplain or seismically retrofitting buildings.

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management is responsible for the coordination and development of the Plan. The Plan updates must be completed by the fall of 2013. The County received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program; hence the fiscal impact to our jurisdiction will be minimal. For coordination purposes, the County has divided the participating jurisdictions into 5 Planning Teams and these teams meet once a month.

The Plan is comprised of the following sections: a Profile Section, a Risk Assessment Section, a Capability Identification Section, a Mitigation Strategy Section, and a Plan Maintenance Section as well as appropriate Appendices. The Planning Teams will be holding public comment meetings in June and July of 2012 and 2013 as part of an ongoing Public Involvement requirement.

For further information, visit the Plan website at <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=104> or contact Katie Gillespie, Mitigation Planner at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, at (253) 798-3311, [kgilles@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:kgilles@co.pierce.wa.us)