

ESF #11 Appendix 3: State Plant Health Response Plan

ESF Coordinating Agency:

Department of Agriculture

Primary Agencies:

United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Support Agencies:

Department of Ecology
Department of Health
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Transportation
Military Department, Emergency Management Division
Office of Attorney General

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This appendix provides guidelines for rapid response to plant health incidents affecting the health, safety and welfare of human beings and the viability of the agriculture sector. Plant health incidents are caused by disease, insects or pests, toxic substances, terrorism and natural or technological disasters.

B. Scope

Plant health response activities may include all plant pest investigations, surveillance, diagnostic, biosecurity, disposal, cleaning/disinfection and recovery activities. This plan supports the efforts of law enforcement in acts of terrorism where plant associated agriculture is the vehicle for dissemination of a chemical or biologic agent.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is responsible for minimizing the introduction and dissemination of plant pests into Washington and coordinating response and control procedures to new plant pest introductions. Certain catastrophic events may also affect plant related production of agriculture which may require activation of this plan.

C. Policies

Chapter 17.24 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) – Insect Pests and Plant Diseases
Chapter 17.10 RCW - The Noxious Weeds Act
Chapter 15.13 RCW - Horticultural Plants and Facilities Act

II. Situations and Assumptions

A. Situations

Agriculture is a major contributor to the economy of Washington. The value of Washington's 2013 agricultural production reached \$10.2 billion. The negative impact of a plant health emergency, or impact of a natural or man-made disaster, could result in economic losses of enormous scale. Effective plant pest control and an efficient, well-organized response to a disaster requires full utilization of available resources and cooperation of all local, state, tribal, and federal agencies in order to minimize the impact.

If a plant health emergency is discovered anywhere in the United States, the entire agricultural complex of the country may be at risk.

B. Limitations & Assumptions

Plant health emergencies are caused by plant pests and may include any organism (including insects, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, protozoa, other invertebrate animals, bacteria, fungus, parasitic plants, viruses, viroids, noxious weeds, or other organisms) or infectious substance that can injure or cause disease or damage in plants, parts of plants, or plant products.

Numerous local, state, federal and volunteer organizations will play a role in responding to and eradicating a plant health emergency. It is unlikely that any single agency or organization has both the legal authority and a sufficient level of resources to conduct an effective plant pest mitigation response without the involvement and support of others.

A plant health emergency may significantly restrict the intrastate, interstate, and international movement of nursery stock and other plant products.

Response and control efforts could involve the destruction of affected plants, products, and other materials that cannot be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Widespread biosecurity control measures may be implemented. Suspected infected locations and transport vehicles may need to be cleaned and disinfected.

Quarantine may be required of areas where there are confirmed or suspect cases. Special operational procedures within these zones may be required. Law enforcement may be required for quarantine enforcement.

III. Concept of Operations

A. General

The WSDA is the primary state agency with statutory authority pertaining to plant industry issues and routinely conducts detection surveys for exotic plant pests as well as investigations of reported and/or suspected new detections. When a plant pest is discovered, WSDA coordinates the communication of new plant pest information

with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection Quarantine (USDA, APHIS PPQ), all Primary and Supporting Agencies, as well as other appropriate state and federal agencies, state academic institutions, and industries. Confirmation of the identification of the plant pest is made to the appropriate taxonomic authority for identification. The public is then informed of the presence of the new plant pest detection(s) or threat(s). WSDA is the lead agency for implementation of the regulatory plant pest control response and for maintaining appropriate state quarantines. Response activities are led by WSDA in unified command with USDA, APHIS PPQ. WSDA reviews and coordinates control activities to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws and initiates timely response and recovery measures.

Plant health incidents can overwhelm local jurisdiction resources and be of such a scale existing agreements may not provide an adequate response. The WSDA, acting within its statutory mandate, will respond to such incidents in coordination with federal, state and local agencies, and ask to have the State Emergency Operations Center activated as needed. Recovery activities will be consistent with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Response and recovery activities will be governed by WSDA procedures.

Organization

The WSDA as the lead organization coordinates plant health services and provides direction and control of allied associations and agencies assisting in emergencies and disasters. WSDA as the Coordinating Agency will notify all Primary and Support Agencies of their needed support when ESF 11 is activated.

Agencies, organizations, and individuals identified in this plan are familiar with it, and will execute their assigned responsibilities, including the timely reporting of plant health emergencies.

The line of succession for the state unified command representative during plant health incidents will be, respectively, the Assistant Director for the Plant Protection Division, the Pest Program Manager or other WSDA personnel as designated by the Director.

IV. ESF Responsibilities Aligned to Core Capabilities

The following table aligns the Core Capabilities that this ESF most directly supports, and the agencies and organizations identified to provide services and resources in accordance with their individual missions, legal authorities, plans and capabilities in coordination through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). All ESFs support the core capabilities of Planning, Operational Coordination, Cyber Security, and Public Information and Warning.

Coordinating State Agency	Responsibilities	Core Capabilities
Washington State Department of Agriculture	• Communicate and coordinate with recognized plant health providers and agencies. • Appoint a state unified command representative. • Coordinate emergency management activities with the Department of Health (DOH), local jurisdictions and the SEOC. • Coordinate multi-state incident response and recovery with local, state and federal plant health response agencies and appropriate emergency management agencies. • Activate the telephone tree to mobilize emergency plant health response and agency personnel resources, when necessary. • Coordinate all press releases and public service announcements with ESF # in the SEOC and the Joint Information Center (JIC), when established. • Maintain communication between State Agency Liaison or Emergency Coordinator and regulatory agencies. • Determine which plant health and response personnel are qualified to enter the incident area.	
Primary Agencies	Responsibilities & Actions	Core Capabilities
United States Department of Agriculture	• Respond jointly with WSDA in the event of a plant disease outbreak or pest introduction/infestation in the state of Washington. • Cooperate with the WSDA in plant pest containment, control and eradication activities including quarantine, evaluation, disposal, cleaning and disinfecting, epidemiology, trace-back, vector control and other activities. • Collect, analyze, and disseminate technical and logistical information. • Provide assistance for disaster relief operations upon request. • Coordinate all press releases and public service announcements with ESF #15 in the SEOC and the JIC, when established.	Supply Chain Integrity and Security

Support Agency	Responsibilities & Actions	Core Capabilities
Department of Ecology	- Assist local health jurisdictions in determining proper waste disposal methods for any crops that need controlled disposal to prevent the spread of disease or pest infestation. - Liaison with Environmental Protection Agency to address issues that may arise.	Environmental Response/ Health and Safety
Department of Health	In collaboration with local health departments and the Department of Ecology, assist in determining proper waste disposal methods for any crops that need controlled disposal to prevent the spread of disease or pest infestation.	Environmental Response/ Health and Safety
Department of Natural Resources	- Coordinate with WSDA for plant health emergencies that occur in forest environments of the state or that affect state lands managed by DNR. - Assist with any phase of operations or recovery for plant health emergencies that occur in forest environments of the state or that affect state lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).	Natural and Cultural Resources
Department of Transportation	- Assist in the movement of state resources during plant health emergencies. - Provide traffic control and routing assistance, barricades, and road monitoring. - Provide equipment and operators to assist with disposal operations.	Critical Transportation
Emergency Management Division	- As host agency for the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), maintain minimum staffing levels for a monitoring posture (Level 3 Activation) as well as the facility itself. Raise activation level at onset of emergency/disaster, or upon request. - Develop and coordinate finalization of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. - Serve as authorized representative for requesting interstate capabilities for agriculture, natural, and cultural resource protection through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).	Operational Coordination Planning Logistics and Supply Chain Management
Office of the Attorney General	- Provide direct legal support to the Department of Agriculture to assist agency staff in performance of their emergency support functions including: - Quarantines, emergency declarations and orders; - Urgent issues of statutory authority, delegation, jurisdiction and liability; and - Contracts and Interagency Agreement review.	Planning

V. Resource Requirements

Depending upon the emergency's nature and/or relatedness to existing programs, the state legislature may provide WSDA with additional funding. However, apart from the legislature and/or limited funding from the Interstate Pest Control Compact, to which Washington belongs, the majority of monetary resources for plant health emergencies come from USDA APHIS PPQ. The majority of the human resource component typically comes from WSDA.

VI. References & Support Plans

Washington State Plant Health Emergency Management Plan
 USDA Aerial Application Manual
 USDA New Pest Response Guidelines

VII. Terms, Acronyms & Definitions

Acronyms	
APHIS -PPQ	Animal Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Protection Quarantine
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOH	Department of Health
DOT	Department of Transportation
JIC	Joint Information Center
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WSDA	Washington State Department of Agriculture