

## **Region 5 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The City of Edgewood, in conjunction with 40 plus cities, towns, special purpose districts (fire, utility, school, port, etc.) and private non-profits in Pierce County, is participating in the development of the Region 5 (Pierce County-wide) Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once the Plan is adopted by the City of Edgewood 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 to seismically retrofitting buildings.

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management is responsible for the coordination and development of the Plan. The Plan must be completed by the summer of 2008. 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 4 Planning Teams: a City and Town Group, a Fire Group, a School Group, and a Utility Group. Our jurisdiction is in the City and Town group and meets once a month.

The Plan has the following phases: an Ongoing Public Involvement Phase, a Profile Phase, a Risk Assessment Phase, a Capability Identification Phase, a Mitigation Strategy Phase, and a Plan Maintenance Phase. Currently, the plan is in the Profile Phase where the jurisdictions are identifying structures that could be potentially impacted by the various hazards in the County. The Planning Teams will be holding public comment meetings in November and December of this year on the hazards and vulnerabilities that have been identified.

For further information, visit the Plan website at [www.co.pierce.wa.us/mitigation](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/mitigation) or contact Luke Meyers, Mitigation Planner at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, at (253) 798-7843, [lmeyer1@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:lmeyer1@co.pierce.wa.us).