



Washington State Emergency Management

Presentation to the Washington State Association of Counties

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Emergency Management Axioms

All disasters are local

**Disaster response is no place to begin
exchanging business cards**



Washington State Hazard Profile

Natural Hazards

1. Avalanche
2. Coastal Hazards
3. Drought
4. Earthquake
5. Flood
6. Landslide
7. Severe Weather
8. Tsunami
9. Volcano
10. Wildfire

Human-Induced Hazards

1. Agricultural Disease Outbreak
2. Dam Failure
3. Pandemic/Epidemic
4. Terrorism
5. Hazardous Materials
6. Cyber Incident
7. Radiological Incident
8. Nation State Competition/Conflict
9. Supply Chain Compromise



Washington's Disasters Over Time

Since 1956 – 208 Federal Declarations

- 66 Major Disasters
- 9 Emergency Declarations
- 133 Federal Fire Suppression/Management Declarations

Washington ranks as the fourth most disaster-prone state in the U.S.A

Caveat: In the last ten years, we're number two



Seasonal Hazards



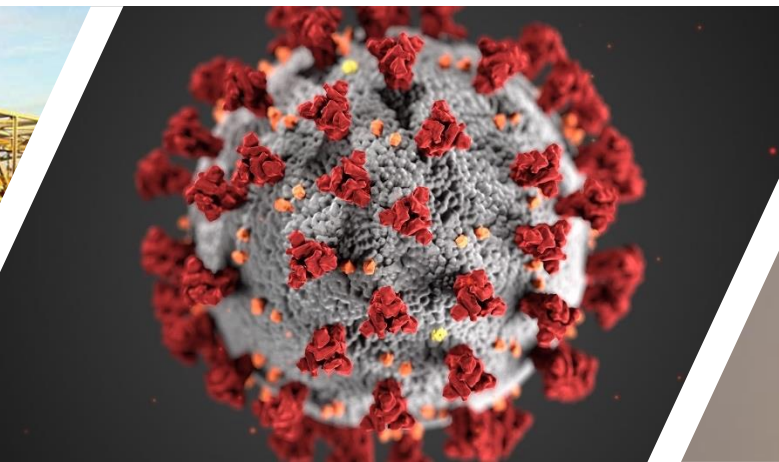


Geologic Hazards



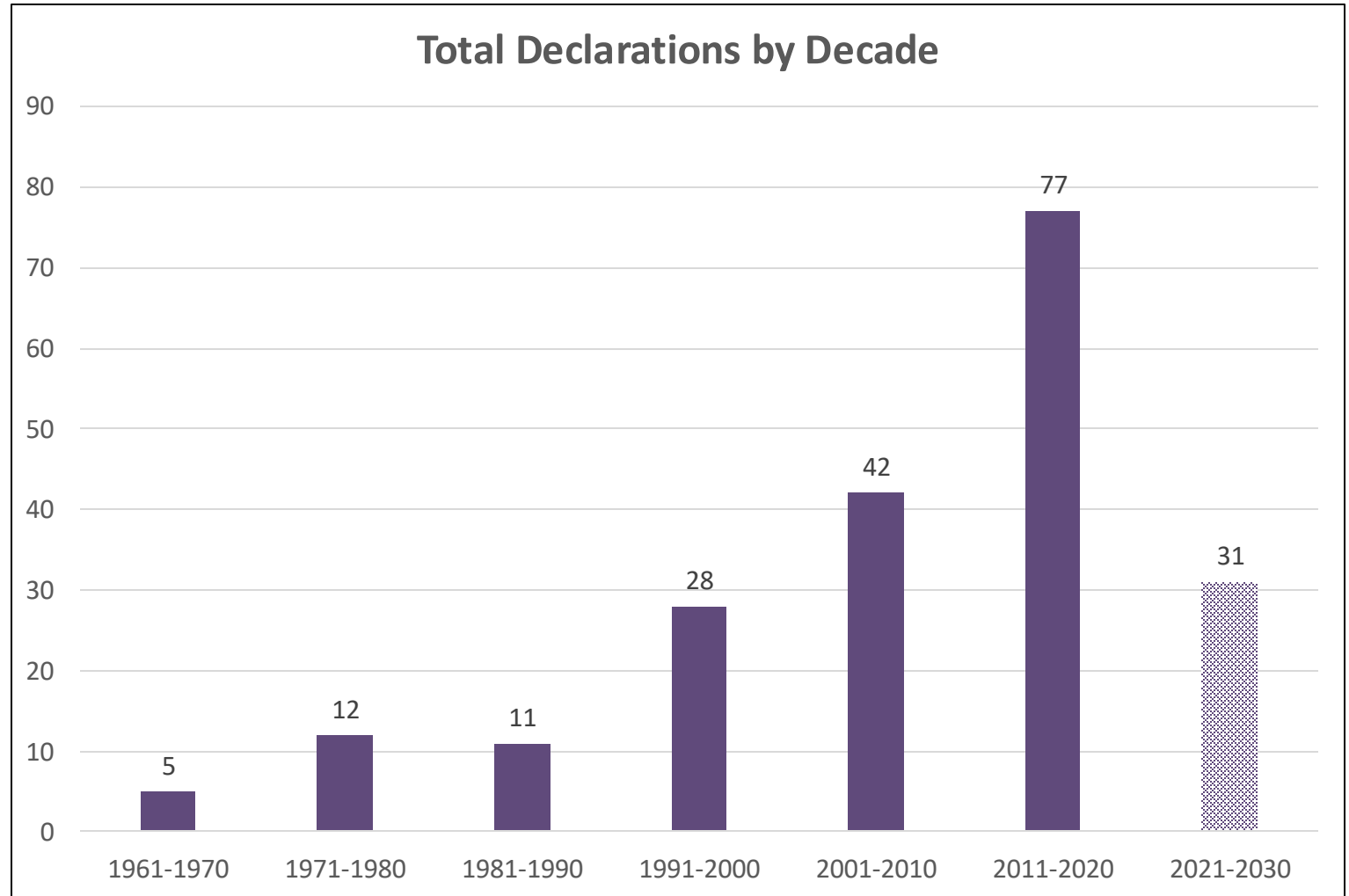
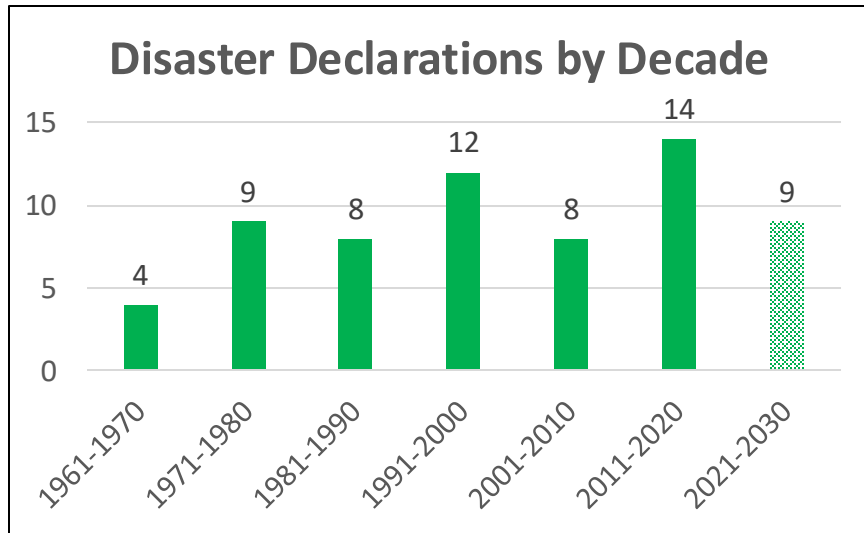
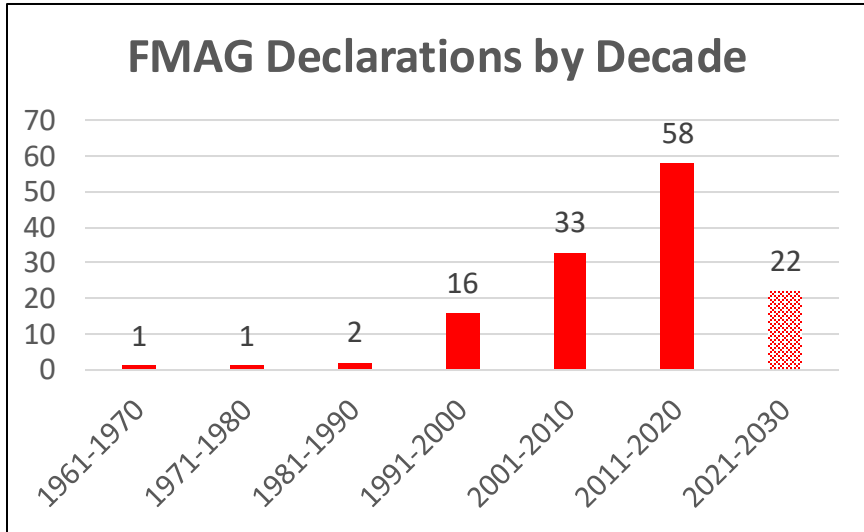


Other Hazards



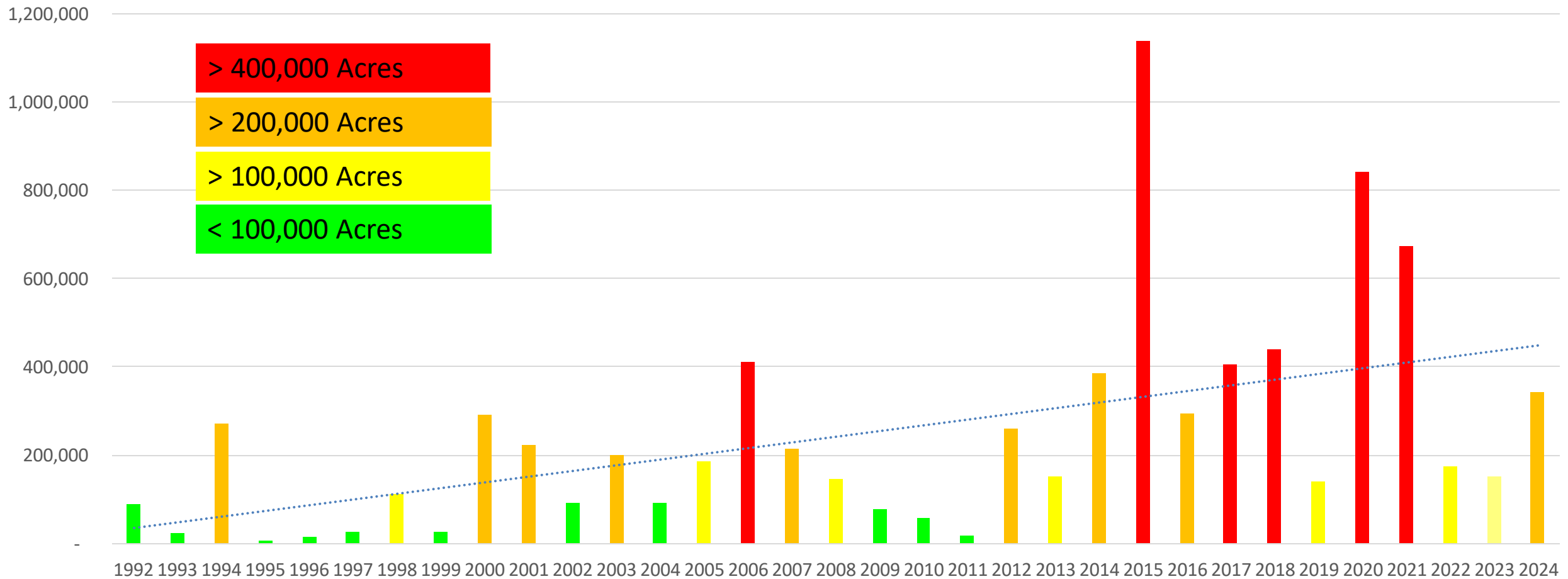


Disaster Growth





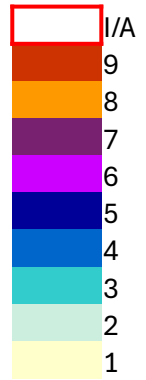
Acres Burned Since 1992



Average 1992-2000: 94,950 Average 2001-2010: 170,089 Average 2011-2020: 410,313 Average 2021-2023: 333,066

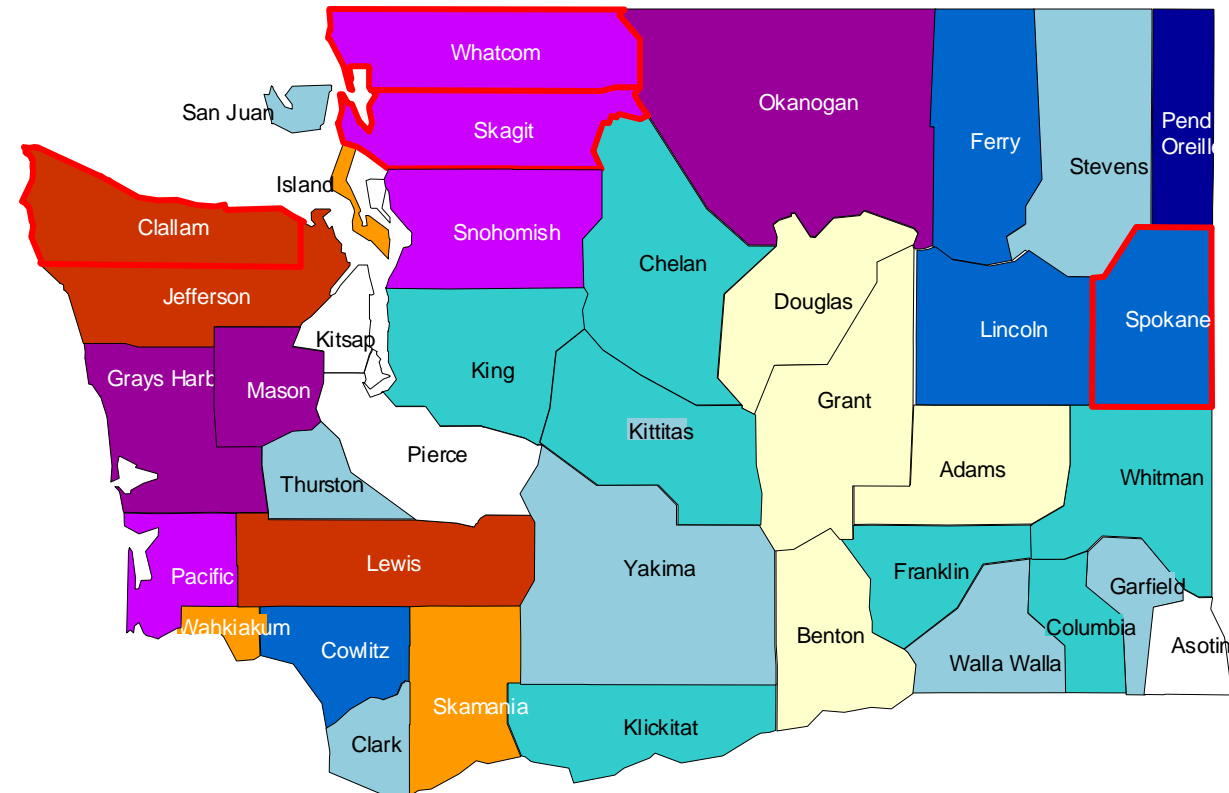
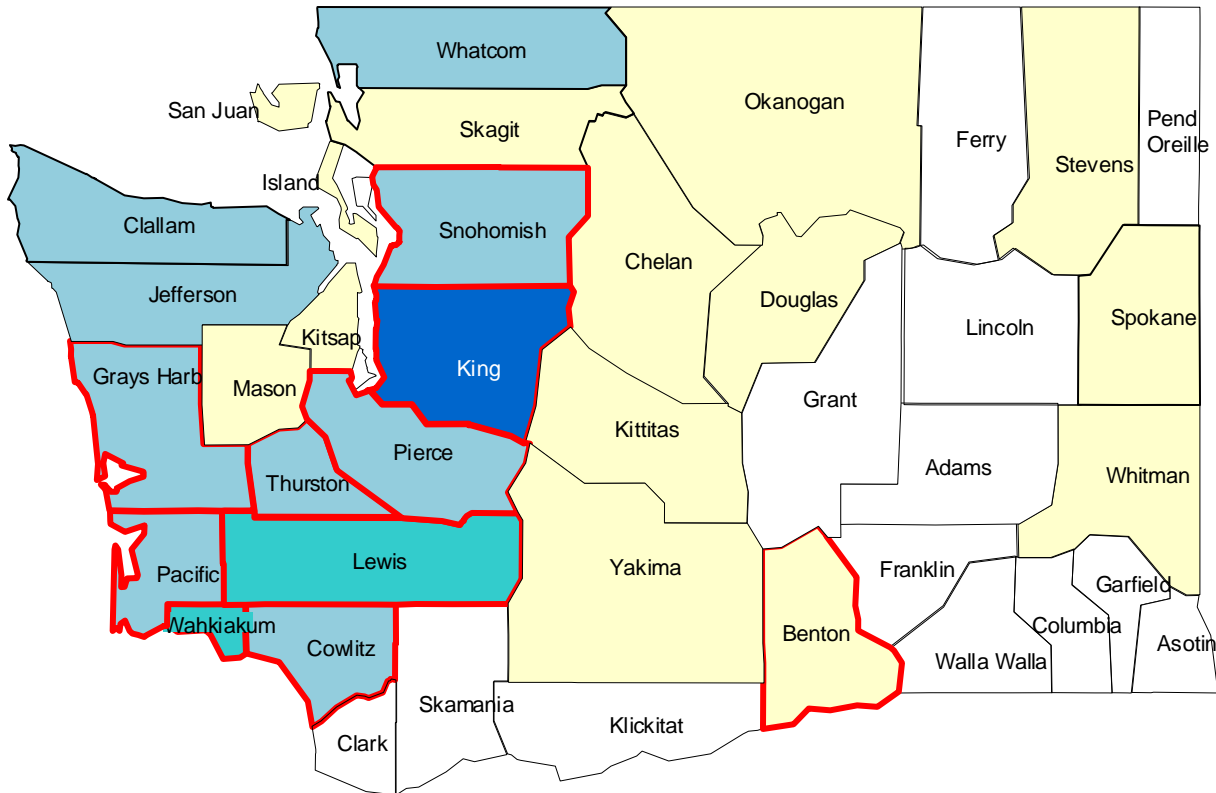


10-Year MD Declaration Frequency



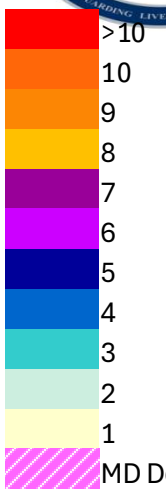
1981-1990 -- 8 MD Declarations

2015-2024 -- 18 MD Declarations

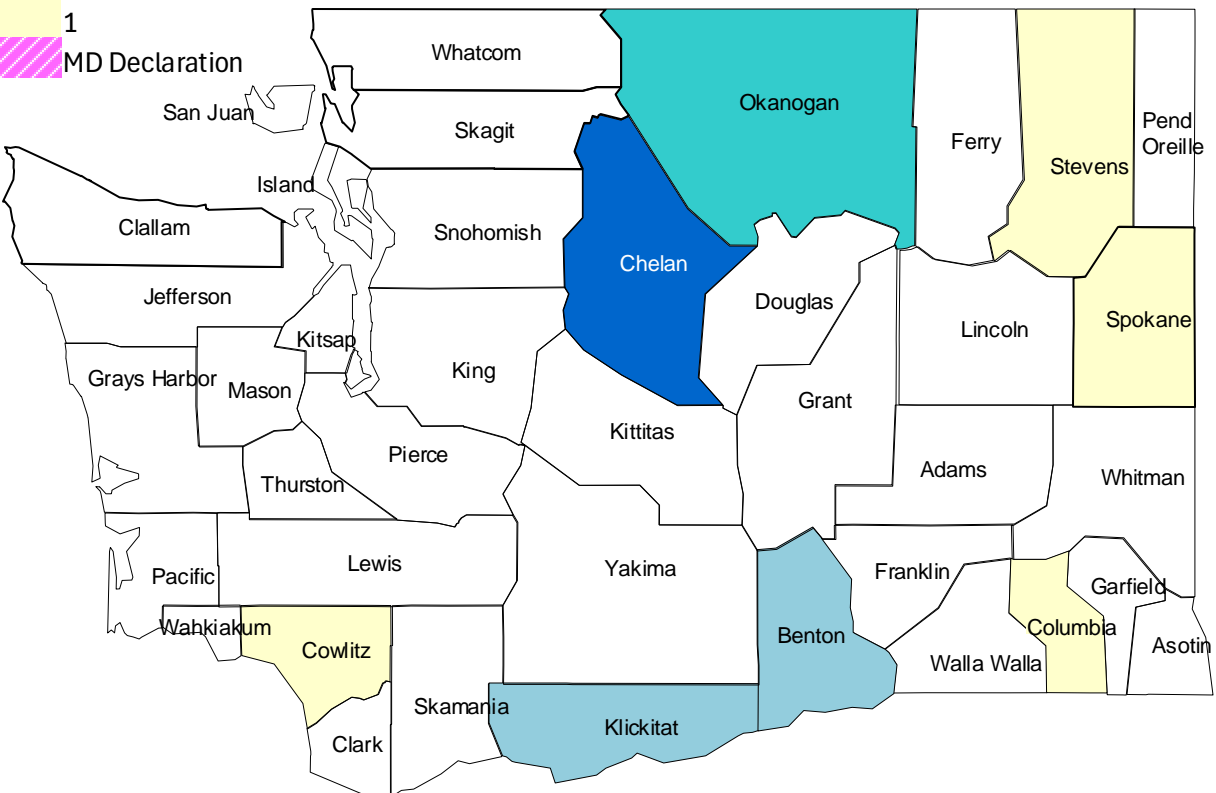




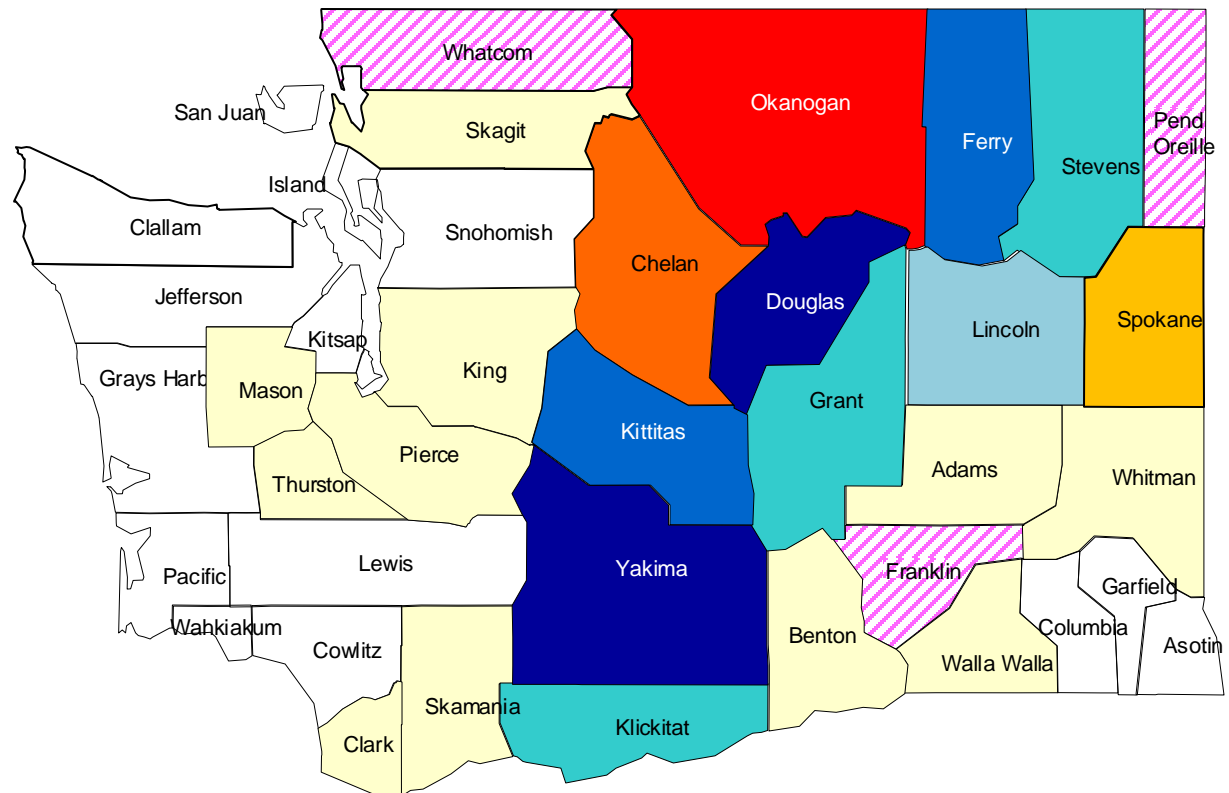
FMAG Declaration Frequency



FMAG 30-Year Frequency 1970-1999
14 FMAG Declarations (.5 Annually)



FMAG 10-Year Frequency 2014-2023
64 FMAG Declarations (6.4 Annually)





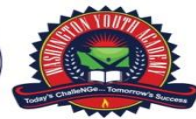
Other Incidents and Disasters

- Disasters not rising to the level of a federal declaration
- Non-Stafford Act disasters
- Pandemic
- Cybersecurity
- Civil unrest
- Refugee sheltering
- Train derailments
- Hazardous materials spills
- Sea level rise
- Elections security
- Agricultural disasters
- Invasive species
- Response to mass casualty events
- Homelessness
- Opioid epidemic



Increasing Complexity of the Disaster Landscape

- Overlapping events
- Cascading effects
- Dis/Mis/Mal-information
- Social justice and Equity
- Distrust of government
- Limited English proficiency
- Nontraditional roles of EM
- Changing expectations
- **Nation-state threat**



DHS Homeland Security Threat Assessment



- Public Safety and Security
 - Terrorism
 - Illegal Drugs
 - Nation-States: Influence Operations and Transnational Repression
- Border and Immigration Security
 - Transnational Criminal Organizations
- Critical Infrastructure Security
 - Cyber Attacks
 - Physical Attacks
 - Intelligence Collection
- Threats to Economic Security



The Nation-State Threat

China is expanding its global covert influence posture to better support the CCP's goals. The PRC aims to sow doubts about U.S. leadership, undermine democracy, and extend Beijing's influence.



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North Korea remains strongly committed to expanding the country's nuclear weapons arsenal, which serves as the centerpiece of his national security structure.



Implications of Nation-State Threats to Emergency Management

Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea pose multifaceted threats to U.S. national security. These threats include:

- Cyberattacks: Targeting critical infrastructure such as power grids, hospitals, and financial systems.
- Economic Disruption: Interfering with trade and causing economic instability.
- Military Actions: Potential sabotage or missile attacks on key facilities.
- **Information Warfare: Spreading misinformation to sow distrust and confusion**

Emergency management must adapt to these evolving threats by enhancing cybersecurity, strengthening critical infrastructure, and being prepared to manage cascading impacts of a concerted attack on our infrastructure.



Your emergency manager is a key member of your leadership team.



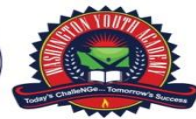
Phases of Emergency Management

1 Preparedness: Activities undertaken to **prepare for disasters and emergencies** and facilitate future response and recovery efforts. Includes writing emergency operations plans and procedures, training, exercises, evacuation planning, public education and warning.

2 Mitigation: Activities undertaken to **avoid, eliminate or reduce the probability of occurrence**, or to lessen the effects of an emergency/disaster. It involves actions to protect lives and property and to defend against attacks.

3 Response: Activities undertaken in the **immediate aftermath of a disaster** that help to reduce casualties and damage, and that expedite recovery. Response activities include warning, evacuation, rescue and other similar operations.

4 Recovery: **Reconstruction, repair and rebuilding activities** intended to restore a community. In addition to permanent repairs to bridges, roads and buildings, these activities include helping victims return to permanent housing, community redevelopment activities, and long-term redevelopment planning.



Emergency Management Responsibilities

Preparedness/Mitigation

- Identifying and assessing potential hazards
- Developing emergency operations plans and procedures
- Training personnel
- Conducting drills and exercises to test plans
- Facilitating public and business preparedness
- Facilitating mitigation activities



Response

- Providing situational awareness for informed decision making by leaders
- Coordinating response efforts between all public and private entities
- Providing critical information to the public
- Facilitating mutual aid

Recovery

- Administering disaster assistance programs
- Providing overall coordination for disaster recovery

YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL



Components of an Effective Emergency Management System

- **Emergency management is recognized as a critical government service.**
- Hazards and threats are identified, and emergency **operations plans are in place to address them; mitigation and prevention activities are encouraged and supported by public officials.**
- Emergency management agencies are appropriately **staffed, trained and resourced.**
- Emergency operations centers are functional and **used to coordinate disaster response; interoperable communications systems are in place; and information-sharing takes place between all response entities.**
- Emergency warning and notification systems exist. **Government has the ability to provide clear and timely information to the public during times of disaster.**
- Mutual aid systems help facilitate the request or provision **of supplemental disaster assistance when needed.**
- The private sector, volunteer agencies and other key **stakeholders are engaged with government in planning and preparedness activities and are effectively utilized during disaster response and recovery.**
- **Residents understand their responsibility and take action to prepare for disasters and lessen their reliance on government.**
- Communication and coordination takes place regularly **between emergency management agencies at all levels of government.**



State Role in Disaster

- The State EOC coordinates the resources and activities of state government, voluntary organizations, and the private sector in support of local and tribal jurisdictions responding to incidents and disasters
- When federal help is required EMD drafts the request for assistance and partners with FEMA to manage the assistance provided to the state
- EMD facilitates establishment of a structure/process to manage long term recovery



State Recovery Assistance

- Governor's emergency assistance fund
 - \$5 million FY23-25 Biennium, 25-27 BIEN?
- State Individual Assistance Program
 - Established by statute, rule-making finalized
 - Decision package to request funding in CY 25 session
- State Public Infrastructure Assistance Program
 - Established in CY24 session
 - Program under development, funding request in CY26 session
- DSHS
 - Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)
 - Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP)
 - Mobile Community Service Office
- Dept of Commerce Programs



Federal Assistance

Presidential Major Disaster Declaration

- Any natural catastrophe, or regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in which the President determines has caused damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant federal disaster assistance to alleviate the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering.
- Federal assistance is supplementary to the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and relief organizations.



Federal Assistance – Public Assistance (PA)

- Eligibility – State, Local, Tribal, Territorial governments and certain non-profit entities
- Activities:
 - Debris removal
 - Emergency protective measures
 - Restoration of publicly-owned facilities and specific facilities of certain PNPs
 - Hazard mitigation
- 75 percent federal cost share, 25 percent local cost share (of which the state customarily pays half)
- WA State threshold - \$14.563 Million. Each county must reach its population-based threshold as well.



Federal Assistance – Individual Assistance (IA)

- Programs are authorized based on the need of the disaster.
- Through IA programs, FEMA provides assistance to individuals and households, as well as SLTT governments to support individual survivors.
 - Mass Care/Emergency Services
 - Individuals and Households Program (IHP)
 - Disaster Case Management
 - Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
 - Disaster Legal Services
 - Disaster Unemployment Assistance
 - Voluntary Agency Coordination



Federal Assistance – Individual Assistance (IA)

- **Individuals and Households Program (IHP)** - financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs as a result of a Presidentially-declared disaster
 - **Housing Assistance (HA)** – Lodging, home repair, home replacement, etc.
 - **Other Needs Assistance (ONA)** – Miscellaneous items, critical needs, etc.
- **Not** designed to make people whole again, or to rebuild ruined homes. It is designed only to **keep disaster victims safe, sanitary and secure.**
- FEMA is the last resort and relies on insurance programs first, and they cannot duplicate funds.
- Maximum award is \$43,600, average is \$8,000



Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans

- Physical Disaster Loans
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans
- Disaster declarations which make SBA loans possible
 - Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance
 - Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance
 - SBA physical disaster declaration
 - SBA economic injury disaster declaration in response to a determination of a natural disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture
 - SBA makes an economic injury declaration in reliance of state certification of economic injury to small businesses in a disaster area



Gaps

- State individual assistance program not yet operational
 - FEMA Individual Assistance is seldom awarded
 - Limited assistance for disaster victims if IA is not awarded
 - Funding is need to make the program operational
- Lack of a state public assistance program
 - No state program to assist local and tribal jurisdictions rebuild public infrastructure if a disaster does not arise to the level of a major disaster declaration
 - Public Infrastructure Assistance Program under development
- **State and local emergency management capacity**
- Preparedness



EMD 2025 Legislative Agenda

- Fully fund the state individual assistance program
- Fund a study to identify best practices for state public assistance program
- Create a state incident management assistance team
- Create a local emergency management capacity building grant



Key Takeaways

- Emergency preparedness and community resilience are key responsibilities of local government
- **An effective emergency management program is crucial**
- Emergency management needs to be connected with all departments
- The hard work needs to take place before an incident or disaster
- Government will not make people whole after a disaster
- Preparedness is key
 - Individual and family
 - Business
 - Government

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QUESTIONS?