



King County
Emergency Management

2021 Annual Report



The Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center in Renton houses the King County Emergency Operations Center and the administrative offices of the King County Office of Emergency Management.

Vision: A County with disaster-ready communities where everyone is prepared for and can recover from emergencies.

Mission: We provide regional leadership to strengthen community resilience and access to emergency services.

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King County

Emergency Management

The King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM), pursuant to [King County Code](#), is responsible:

- To provide effective direction, control, and coordination of King County Government emergency services functional units, and
- To provide liaison with other governments and the private, nongovernmental sector, in compliance with a state-approved comprehensive emergency management plan, and
- To serve as the coordinating entity for cities, King County Governmental departments, and other appropriate agencies, prior to, during, and after incidents and events of regional significance.

KCOEM has four key outcomes:

1. To provide region-wide planning and emergency response coordination for jurisdictional and private sector partners.
2. To achieve a state of continuous improvement through the adoption of standards-based programs.
3. To develop resilient and inclusive systems for King County departments and the whole community.
4. To develop a strong workforce made up internal and external partners, ready to coordinate emergency response and recovery.

These outcomes are achieved through various priorities:

Priority: Situational Awareness

Develop better situational awareness, including gathering, analyzing, assessing, processing, and distributing information to partners, developing and distributing intelligence, using new and enhanced technology, and having the ability to see a broad perspective on threats and hazards.

Priority: Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Readiness

Strengthen EOC readiness by fitting the proper environment and layout, improving technology, personnel training and qualifications, improving and updating process and procedures, and ensuring opportunities for experience through exercises and real events.

Priority: Public Awareness and Education

Provide for overall regional readiness through public awareness, performing outreach activities and training, increasing options for and reach of alert and warning systems, using traditional and social media for messaging, and increasing public resilience through programs such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), disaster readiness skills, and Map Your Neighborhood.

Priority: Disaster Risk Reduction

Help to ensure disaster risk reduction by using corrective actions and lessons learned to guide future emergency management work, giving proper attention to the mitigation, prevention, and protection mission areas, and building up the County's continuity framework through plan updates, workshops, and exercises.

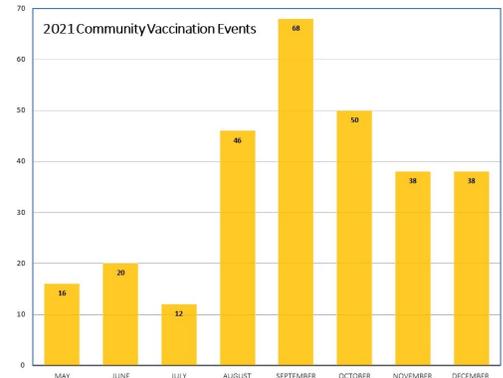
KCOEM is part of the Department of Executive Services (DES), which is a partner and leader in **Delivering Excellent Service** every day; this is achieved by focusing on customers, internal and external, and treating everyone with fairness and respect.

Key Update: COVID-19

Since February 29, 2020, KCOEM has been coordinating County and regional response operations to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Vaccination Event Logistics

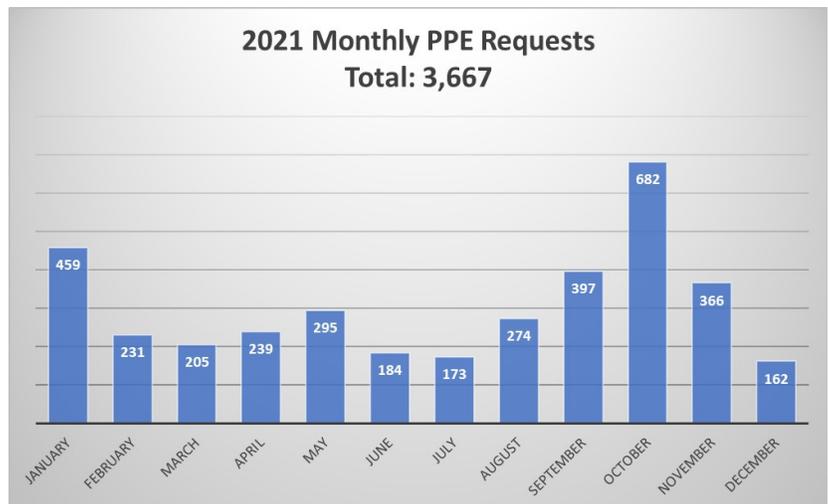
In 2021, the KCOEM COVID-19 Logistics Team supported resource and supply needs for Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC) community vaccination events (CVE), in collaboration with communities and workplaces throughout King County, including Renton, Des Moines, Federal Way, Auburn, and several Seattle neighborhoods. Events served students, faith communities, immigrants, and more. Among many others, partnering organizations included the Renton School District, Federal Way Farmer's Market, Lambert House, Seadrunar, and All Saints Lutheran Church. From June through December, the Logistics Team supported over 11,500 vaccinations at more than 280 events.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution

The KCOEM COVID-19 Logistics Team held 12 pop-up mask distribution events in 2021 for restaurant and food service workers in Bellevue, Kent, Renton, and Seattle, distributing various items of PPE for restaurant and food service workers. Over 300 businesses participated; more than 200,000 PPE items were distributed, assisting over 11,000 local workers.

Additionally in 2021, KCOEM continued to take in PPE orders from local healthcare facilities, social services organizations, and King County agencies. PPE was sourced from the State, through County procurement, and with donations. The need for PPE was still in high demand throughout the year, as COVID-19 was spreading more easily. The team implemented a streamlined process to deliver emergency supplies to high-risk facilities during outbreaks. PPE requests remained steady throughout the first half of the year, then began to increase in the early fall, with the new variant spreading rapidly.



Mass Vaccination Strategic Innovation

In January 2021, KCOEM worked with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and provided strategic direction to create a COVID-19 vaccine contracting structure, enabling all participating jurisdictions in Washington State to recoup their vaccination-related costs, including regular-time expenses (typically not allowed). The only process like it in the nation, this structure will likely bring King County and its jurisdictions over \$110 million in vaccine cost recoupment. Acting as the Incident Management Agency for DOH, KCOEM advises King County Government agencies and partnering jurisdictions on the contracting, invoicing process, and eligible costs. KCOEM provided critical analysis and key advice to PHSKC and the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) in setting up mass vaccination sites for King County, including negotiating staffing contracts.

Priority: Situational Awareness

Situational Awareness: Duty Officer Activity and Coordination

KCOEM duty officers rotate through week-long shifts, being available “24/7” as the primary entry point for King County Government and partner agencies into the emergency management system. Duty officers provide regional situational awareness to King County Government and partner organizations, and answer calls for support and resources in response to incidents and emergencies. The critical information requirements (CIR) list identifies categories of situations about which the duty officer collects, analyzes, and distributes information. Sources of information include the National Weather Service, first responder organizations, State and federal agencies, jurisdiction partners, and King County departments, among others. This process helps KCOEM and stakeholders inform operational decisions, such as changing the level of preparedness for an incident, activating the EOC, and dispatching resources to support an incident response operation.

Duty Officer Activity Type	CIR Category	Total
Civil Disturbance	Law Enforcement Activity	1
Communications Support	Communications	4
Cyber Security Incident	Communications	1
Earthquake	Geological	7
Fire	Fire Department Activity	20
Government Operations	Government Operations	1
Hazmat	Fire Department Activity	67
KC Facility Issues	Government Operations	2
Landslide	Geological	5
Law Enforcement Activity	Law Enforcement Activity	5
Minor Resource Request		8
Mutual Aid Request	Government Operations	1
Other		6
Other EOC Activating	Government Operations	2
Public Alerting Request	Communications	1
Rescue	Rescue	2
School Operations	School Operations	2
Severe Weather	Severe Weather	2
Terrorism	Law Enforcement Activity	1
Transportation	Transportation	15
Utility Emergency	Utility Emergency	2

Situational Awareness: Weekly Coordination Calls

As part of the response operations for the COVID-19 pandemic, KCOEM started twice-weekly regional coordination calls with partners in March 2020; these calls provided essential situational awareness and other issues of immediate concern. The calls were reduced to once per week, and in 2021, the agenda was expanded to include regular updates on COVID-19-related and non-COVID-19 topics, such as current emergency operations, weather outlook, resource management, COVID-19 case counts and transmission rates, hospital capacity, and more. The calls are a forum for regional partners to hear from subject matter experts, and exchange information among peers. The image to the right is a sample agenda from one of the weekly coordination calls.

Regional Coordination Call
Agenda
December 2, 2021
2 pm
Facilitator: Barnaby Dow

Poll: CEMPs and Community Lifelines - In 2022, KCOEM will begin the process of reviewing and updating our CEMP. As part of the review, we are considering incorporating additional components. One of those components is the incorporation of Community Lifelines constructs. We are interested in what our fellow jurisdictions are doing in relation to Community Lifelines.

- Opening Remarks – Brendan McCluskey, KCOEM
- Duty Officer update – KCOEM
- Health Update – Jillian Edge, PHSKC
- Capacity Update – Scott Foster, NWHRN
- Logistics – Juanita Cordova, KCOEM
- Pub Ed document bag/swag pickup – Sophia Lopez, KCOEM
- Maloney cell site – Jason Shirron, KCOEM
- Good of the Order – All
- Closing remarks – Brendan

Situational Awareness: Snapshot Reports

During emergencies, KCOEM plays a critical role in informing partner agencies of the situation and impacts to support implementation of protective actions. Situational awareness information is shared through a variety of methods, including incident “snapshots.” These provide decision makers with relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the situation, any cascading effects, and the status of operations. In 2021, as part of an improvement process, KCOEM updated the snapshot template to include status color-coding of [Community Lifelines](#), using a “stoplight system” (red/yellow/green). This gives readers a quick visual cue on the status of critical services and supports providing a common operating picture.



Priority: EOC Readiness

EOC Readiness: Training and Qualifications

To be fully functional during emergencies or disasters, the King County EOC relies on trained and qualified professionals ready to respond at a moment's notice. To this end, KCOEM dedicates time to training professionals to fill various EOC roles, through both internal and external trainings. KCOEM employees are the first to staff EOC positions during emergencies and disasters, and as such, they need to have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to do their roles effectively to save and sustain lives, stabilize the situation, and protect property and the environment.

In 2020, KCOEM established the baseline training requirements for its personnel. In 2021, KCOEM identified training requirements for specific roles (positions) in the EOC, and developed a training matrix and tracking system to monitor required and recommended training courses for KCOEM personnel and other partners who work in the EOC during emergency operations. Baseline competency courses include trainings such as the FEMA [Professional Development Series](#) (PDS), National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses, and basic EOC trainings. The chart below shows the required (REQ) and recommended (REC) FEMA Independent Study and instructor-led courses, along with to whom each applies.

King County Office of Emergency Management Required and Recommended FEMA Courses	All Staff Members	FEMA PDS	Duty Officers	Planners	EOC Manager	EOC Operations	EOC Resource Management	EOC Planning	Other Non-OEM Personnel Working in the EOC
FEMA Independent Study Courses									
IS-5.A: An Introduction to Hazardous Materials			REQ			REQ			
IS-15.B: Special Events Contingency Planning for Public Safety Agencies				REQ				REC	
IS-26: Guide to Points of Distribution				REC			REQ		
IS-27: Orientation to FEMA Logistics							REQ		
IS-75: Military Resources in Emergency Management				REC		REQ			
IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100	REQ								REQ
IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response	REQ								REC
IS-201: Forms Used for the Development of the Incident Action Plan			REQ		REC	REC	REC	REQ	REC
IS-120.C: An Introduction to Exercises	REQ	X							
IS-230.D: Fundamentals of Emergency Management	REQ	X							
IS-235.C: Emergency Planning	REQ	X							
IS-240.B: Leadership and Influence	REQ	X							
IS-241.B: Decision Making and Problem Solving	REQ	X							
IS-242.B: Effective Communication	REQ	X							
IS-244.B: Developing and Managing Volunteers	REQ	X							
IS-247.B: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for Alert			REQ						
IS-271.A: Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk, 2nd Edition			REQ						
IS-403: Introduction to Individual Assistance	REC								
IS-772: Individual Assistance PDA Orientation	REC								
IS-453: Introduction to Homeland Security Planning				REQ					
IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System	REQ								REQ
IS-703.B: National Incident Management System Resource Management				REC			REQ		
IS-706: Intrastate Mutual Aid	REC					REC	REQ		
IS-800.D: National Response Framework, An Introduction	REQ								REC
IS-1300: Introduction to Continuity of Operations	REC			REQ					
IS-2000: National Preparedness Goal and System Overview	REC			REQ					
IS-2002: Introduction to FEMA Operational Planning				REC				REQ	
IS-2200: Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions	REQ								REC
IS-2900: National Recovery Framework Overview	REC								
IS-2901: Introduction to Community Lifelines	REQ								
FEMA Instructor-led Courses									
<i>E0143: Advanced Situational Awareness and Common Operating Picture</i>			REC					REC	
E/G0191: Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface	REQ								REC
G0235: Emergency Planning				REC					
G0272: Warning Coordination			REC						
E/G0300: ICS 300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding	REC		REQ						
E/G0400: ICS 400: Advanced ICS for Command and Gen Staff-Complex Incidents	REC								
<i>E0948: Situational Awareness and Common Operating Picture</i>								REC	
<i>E2002: FEMA Operational Planning Manual</i>								REC	
E/G2300: Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions	REC								
<i>L8540: Basic Interagency Logistics Seminar/Logistic Center Tour</i>							REC		

EOC Readiness: EOC Activations

The King County EOC is the location from which regional coordination of information and resources to support incident management activities takes place. The personnel in the EOC serve some or all of the following roles and responsibilities, depending on the incident or event:

- Collecting, analyzing, and sharing information
- Supporting resource needs and requests, including allocation and tracking
- Coordinating plans and determining current and future needs
- Providing coordination and policy direction

Since February 2020, KCOEM has been engaged in the region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - the longest sustained EOC activation in the history of King County - supporting PHSKC, the many government and private sector partners, and thousands of people working at every level of the effort. As is true every year, several other emergencies called on KCOEM resources:

Mission # / Event	2021 Dates ¹	Activation Level	Ops Periods ²	Notes
21-0556 / Winter Weather	2/11 - 2/14	Enhanced	7	Snow, cold
21-2255 / Excessive Heat	6/24 - 6/29	Enhanced	6	Record heat
21-3113 / August Heat	8/11 - 8/14	Enhanced	3	More heat
01-CCTA / Exercise	10/29 - 10/28	Enhanced	1	Terrorism training/exercise
21-4968 / Holiday Cold Snap	12/26 - 12/30	Enhanced	5	Sub-freezing temperatures, snow
20-0265 / COVID-19 Pandemic	1/1 - 12/31	Enhanced/Partial	365	Continued from 2/29/2020
2021 Total (non-COVID)			22	<i>26 - total 2020 non-COVID</i>
2021 Total			387	<i>333 - total 2020</i>

¹ All 2021 activations ran concurrent with the continuous COVID-19 EOC activation

² Operational Period: shifts, usually 24 hours or less, with specific objectives and staff assignments

For the incidents noted above - winter weather, extreme heat, and extreme cold - there was some amount of prior notice available. This notice allowed KCOEM to engage in pre-event planning and coordination with King County leadership, agencies, and other partners, through regional coordination calls (King County agencies and jurisdictional partners) and Business Continuity Calls (King County leadership). Lessons learned from these events led to the development of incident-specific playbooks that identify expected actions, and roles and responsibilities for KCOEM, King County agencies, and other partners. Additionally, KCOEM has started to

Emergency Operations Center Activation Levels (revised January 2020)

Level	Definition / Condition	Staffing Posture	Deliverables
Full	Incident requires full KCOEM staffing the Emergency Operations Center and activation of many Emergency Support Functions.	KCOEM staffing Emergency Operations Center with many Emergency Support Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situational Reports • Incident Support Plan • Actively updating WebEOC • Actively updating Emergency News blog
Partial	Incident requires staffing of the Emergency Operations Center by KCOEM staff and activation of select Emergency Support Functions (other departments or jurisdictions)	KCOEM staffing Emergency Operations Center with *select* Emergency Support Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situational Reports • Incident Support Plan • Actively updating WebEOC • Actively updating Emergency News blog
Enhanced	Incident monitored by Duty Officer, the Backup Duty Officer, and additional KCOEM staff (as needed).	Duty Officer Backup Duty Officer, with additional KCOEM Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situational Reports • Incident Support Plan (as needed) • Actively updating WebEOC • Actively updating Emergency News blog (as needed)
Steady-State	No anticipated incident or event. Monitoring by the Duty Officer.	Duty Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically monitoring and updating WebEOC

socialize the essential elements of information (EEI) concept with stakeholders who may be expected to provide updates; incident specific EEIs are being included in the extreme weather (heat, cold, flooding) playbooks in use and under development.

EOC Readiness: Professional Emergency Management Training

KCOEM offers emergency management trainings, seminars, and exercises to stakeholders, including King County Government and our many external partners. In an effort to reach more emergency management professionals and first responders in 2021, KCOEM increased the range of courses that we made available via video-conferencing. See below for explanations of these courses:

Courses provided by KCOEM in 2021:

Course Name	Number of Courses ³
WebEOC - Regional Training Event	3
EOC-101 and WebEOC	2
Lunchtime Lecture: ICS-100 (Just-in-Time training)	3
Lunchtime Lecture: ICS-200 (Just-in-Time training)	3
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	2
ICS-400: Advanced ICS - Complex Incidents	8
Summer Hazards Seminar	1
Winter Weather Seminar	1
Total	23

³ Number of times the course was given during 2021; many of these are multi-day courses.

WebEOC - Regional Training Event: is a 1.5-hour, remote-access class on how to use WebEOC, which is an information sharing tool used by EOCs. It consists of both an initial overview of WebEOC, as well as hands-on practice accomplishing specific tasks with the software.

Introduction to EOCs: this one-hour course provides an introduction to EOCs for people designated to work in an EOC. The two main topics covered in this course are how EOCs operate, and the main roles in an EOC.

Lunchtime Lectures: were developed to fill a need identified by stakeholders for a shortened versions of courses, so people could attend during their lunch-hour; it is also an option for students that have an easier time learning from a live instructor.

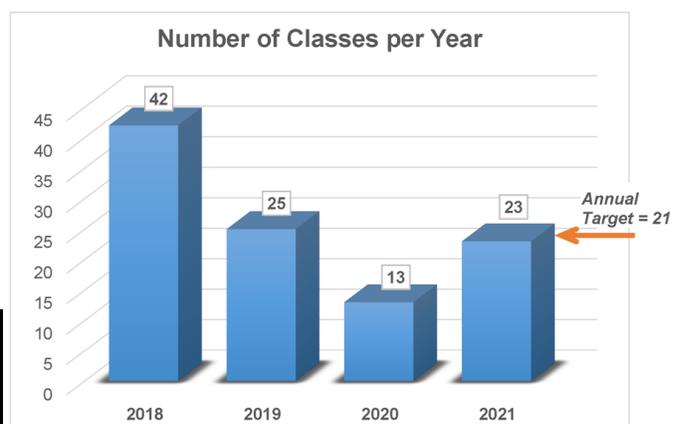
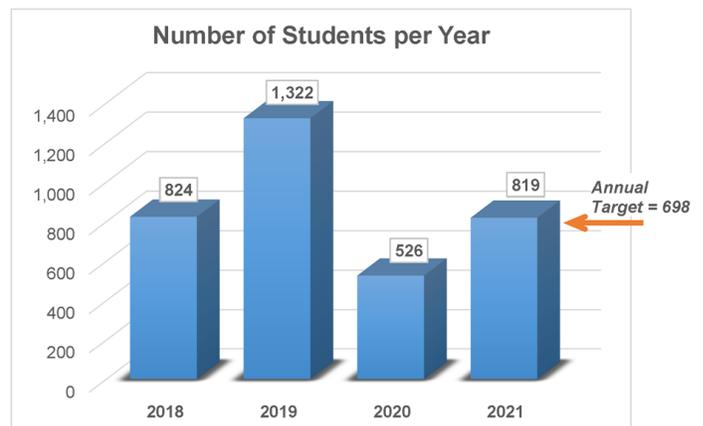
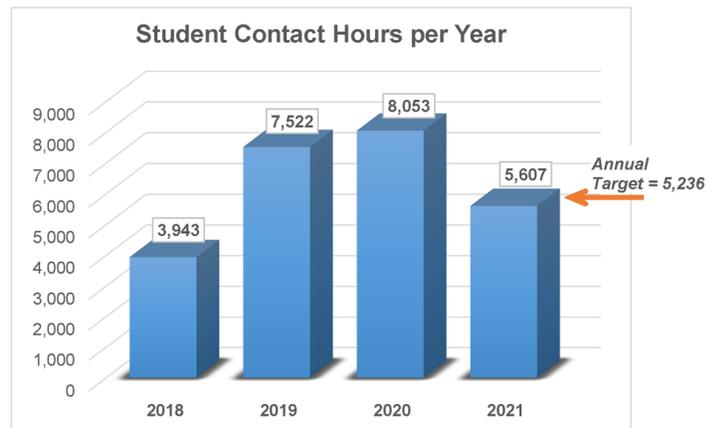
- ICS-100: Intro to the Incident Command System (ICS) - provides basic overview training of ICS and NIMS, and their application to emergency management/response in various situations.
- ICS-200: Basic ICS for Initial Response - provides overview training of ICS in initial response efforts after an incident or disaster, and is intended for personnel who take on supervisory positions within the system.

ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents: this 3-day course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of ICS and expands upon information covered in the ICS-100 and ICS-200 courses.

ICS-400: Advanced ICS - Complex Incidents: this 2-day course provides training and resources for personnel who require advanced application of ICS and expands upon information covered in ICS-100 through ICS-300. The target audience is senior personnel performing in a management capacity in ICS.

Summary of KCOEM Training

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Class Hours	3,943	7,522	8,053	5,067
Number Students	824	1,322	526	819
Number of Classes	42	25	13	23



Priority: Public Awareness and Education

Public Awareness and Education: Mass Notification

Getting the word out to residents, businesses, and government employees during an emergency reached a broader audience in 2021 with the continued integration of both internal and external alert and notification systems. To date, more than 25 jurisdictions in King County have joined KCOEM’s notification program – which is offered at no charge.

KCInform and ALERT King County Enrollment

[KCInform](#) is King County Government’s branded system for alerting employees to incidents and emergencies. County employees have their work email address and work phone (if known) automatically enrolled in KCInform (near 100%), and are encouraged to enhance their accounts with personal contact information.

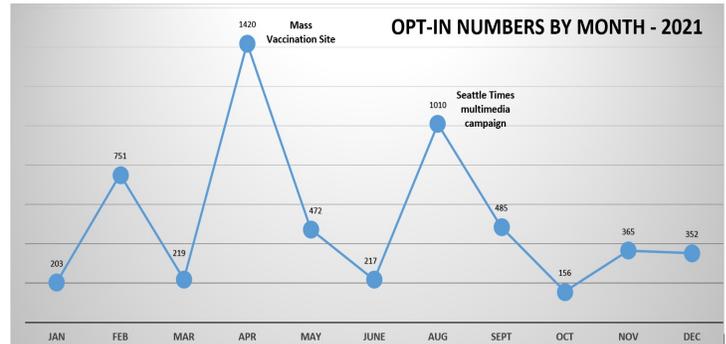
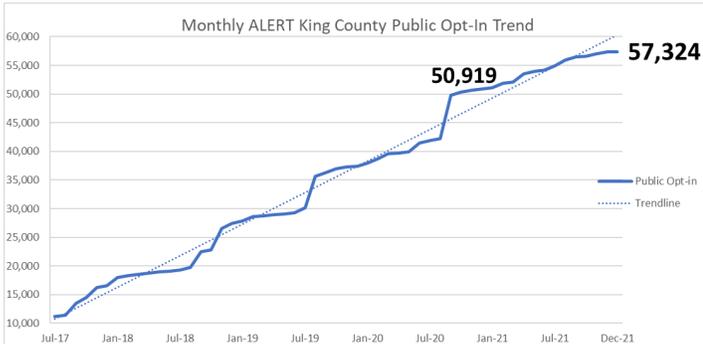


The table below shows the number of employees registered with KCInform and whether they have enhanced their accounts with personal contact information. Totals vary due to resignations, layoffs, and retirements.

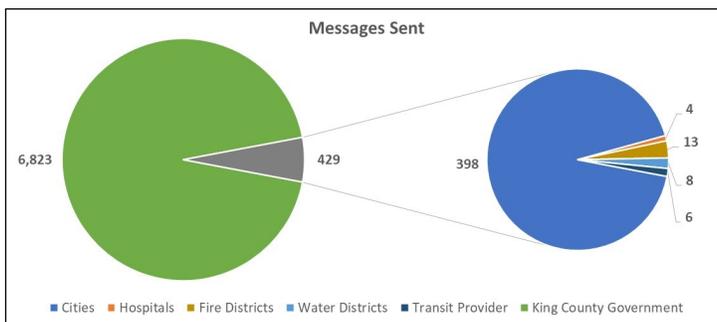
	Total Employees Enrolled	Total Email Addresses	Total Phones	Personal Emails	Home Phones	Cell Phones	Text-enabled Cell Phones
DEC 1, 2020	17,712	23,872	23,251	8,879	5,565	8,778	8,133
DEC 1, 2021	17,999	24,197	25,450	8,607	5,145	8,555	8,101
DIFFERENCE	287	325	2,199	-272	-420	-223	-32

Total Email Addresses = work + personal
Total Phones = work + home + cell

[ALERT King County](#) is the public-facing regional notification system serving residents, businesses, and visitors. Countywide, more than 57,000 residents and businesses have enrolled since its launch in 2017.



In 2021, over 7,200 messages were sent through KCInform and ALERT King County. By a very large margin, King County Government agencies sent the majority of these messages, with partners in the cities a distant second; other partner agencies used the system sparingly.

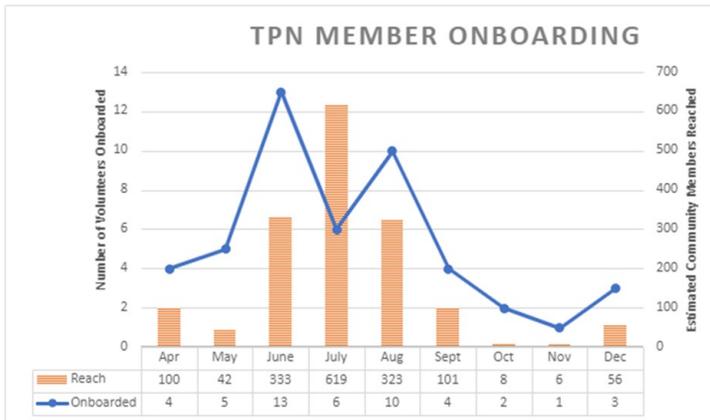


Jurisdiction	Messages Sent
Cities	398
Hospitals	4
Fire Districts	13
Water Districts	8
Transit Provider	6
King County Government	6,823
Total	7,252

Trusted Partner Network and ALERT King County

Originally conceived in 2019 as a component of the Inclusive Emergency Communications Plan (IECP), the [Trusted Partner Network](#) (TPN) was operationalized in 2021 with recruitment, training, and sustainment efforts ongoing. The TPN is an innovative network of trusted community volunteers who act as a bridge to connect emergency notifications with underserved and Limited English Proficiency groups across the region. In addition to English, 15 other languages are used by volunteers in the network, with more to come:

<i>Russian</i>	<i>Urdu</i>	<i>ASL</i>	<i>Tigrinya</i>	<i>Samoan</i>
<i>Japanese</i>	<i>Arabic</i>	<i>Khmer</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Luganda</i>
<i>Kiswahili</i>	<i>Twi</i>	<i>Chichewa</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Tamil</i>



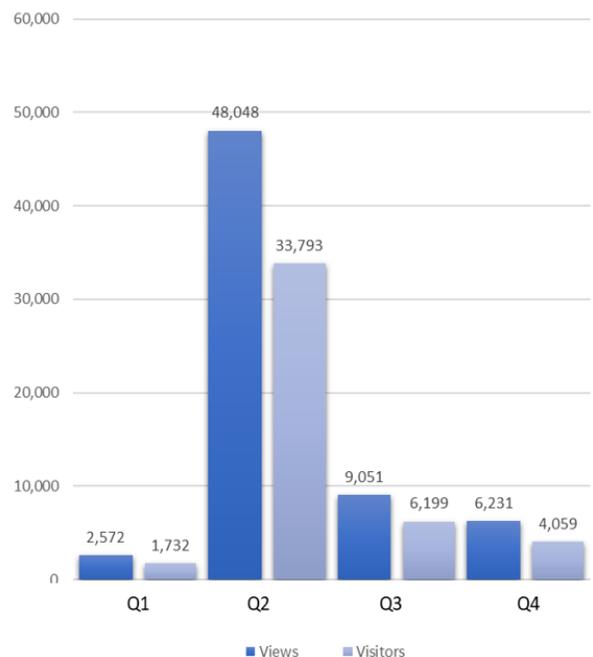
The graph to the left shows the number of TPN volunteer members onboarded with each monthly orientation session hosted by KCOEM, as well as the estimated community members able to be reached by these members. New volunteers practice the process of conveying emergency alerts to their communities in the language and format that is relevant to their community group, and report back to KCOEM on the number of people they communicated with and in what languages. In 2021, 48 volunteers reached an estimated 1,588 community members during these onboarding drills.

Emergency News Blog

During an incident or emergency, KCOEM directs people to the [Emergency News blog](#) to access timely, accurate information. The Emergency News blog serves as a central hub for public information and situation updates, and draws a following of media, regional stakeholders, and residents. During the late June heat wave, KCOEM collected and coordinated cooling center information from across the County, and the blog post was accessed over 45,000 times during the four-day event. The graph to the right shows visitor interaction with the blog over the year; spikes in engagement reflect piqued interest (e.g., summer heat waves in the second and third quarters).



KC Emergency Blog 2021 Statistics



Views = accessed the blog
Visitors = clicked through to investigate more

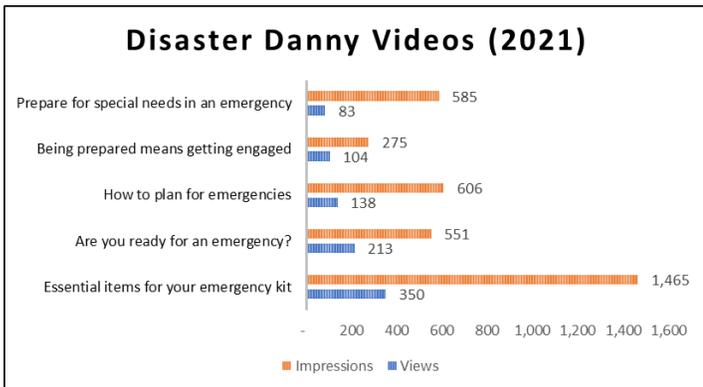


Public Awareness and Education: Public Training and Education

In 2021, KCOEM continued to promote alternative methods of public outreach including two video series produced with King County TV. Linked to the KCOEM website and promoted via social media channels, the Disaster-Ready Danny and Disaster Skills Training video series provide preparedness information to community members at their convenience. In 2022, the production of translated subtitles in multiple languages will improve access by more communities within King County.

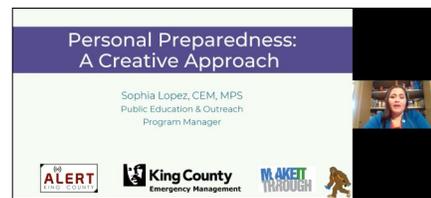
The graph below shows levels of engagement with the [Disaster Danny video series](#), by episode title.

The graph below shows levels of engagement with our [Disaster Skills Training video series](#), whether viewing an individual episode, or the full version.



Impressions = on viewer's "news feed"

Views = clicked through to investigate more



In 2021, KCOEM continued to adapt to the challenge of safely delivering critical preparedness trainings and information during a pandemic. The basic Disaster Skills Training course was adjusted for delivery in a live virtual format and was taught to seven different groups throughout the year. Though in-person events remained limited, KCOEM staff members distributed emergency preparedness materials and information to the region's CERT programs and the general public at events such as mass vaccination sites and community preparedness fairs.

Quarter	Engagement Type	Number of Events	Total Attendees	Venue type	Role of KCOEM	notes
1	Disaster Skills Trainings	3	63	virtual	lead	School and HOA
2	Disaster Skills Trainings	2	52-77	virtual	lead	School and educational support group
2	Table Event	1	250-300	in-person	lead	Preparedness kit give-away at Auburn mass vax site
2	Town Hall	4	160-250	virtual	support	
3	Preparedness Fairs	2	450	in-person	lead	Pacific and Redmond
3	CERT Unit 1	1	30	in-person	lead	Woodinville High School
3	Community Events	2	230	in-person	support	Seattle and North Bend
3	National Night Out	5	420	in-person	support	
3	Map Your Neighborhood	1	25	in-person	support	Mt. Baker Community Hub, Seattle
3	Disaster Preparedness Meeting	1	40	virtual	support	KC Homeowners, resident meeting
4	Disaster Skills Trainings	2	62	virtual	lead	WA State Community Association Institute, and Issaquah
4	CERT Program Manager	1	25	in-person	support	

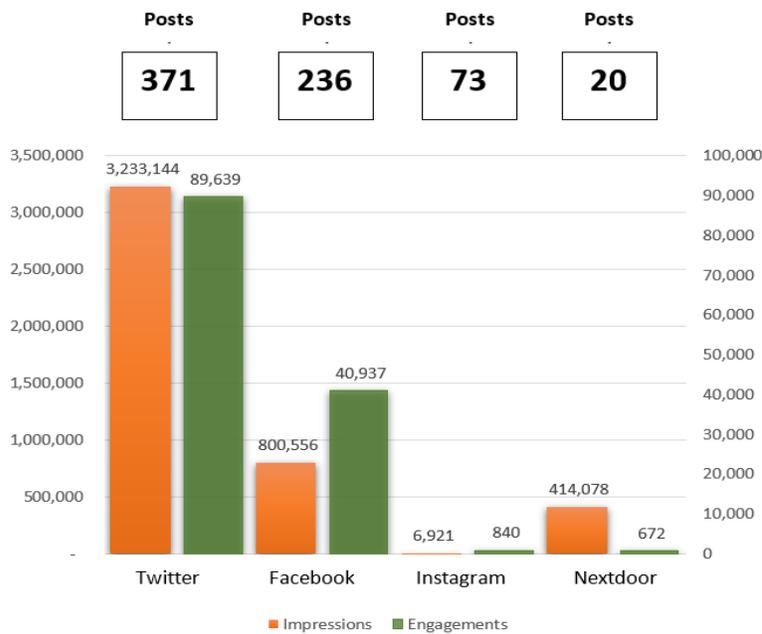
The table above shows types of public engagements held in 2021.

Public Awareness and Education: Social Media

KCOEM employs a strategy of engagement on social media to quickly disseminate #KingCountyReady-branded preparedness and safety messaging through King County’s flagship social channels (@KingCountyWA on Facebook and Twitter), as well as Instagram (@kingcountywa). Ten 30-second hazard focused videos were produced and shared during September’s National Preparedness Month, and re-posted when a hazard was related to a real-world event. The graph below details the number of KCOEM-related social media posts by platform, as well as level of impressions and engagements by the public.



Total 2021 #KingCountyReady Social Media Statistics



Impressions: the number of times a post appears in user’s timeline or search results.
Engagements: the total number of times a user interacted with the post.



As well as the hazard videos posted during Preparedness Month, KCOEM experimented with a Facebook and Twitter live event, focusing on preparation for an earthquake. This first attempt provided valuable knowledge, and will certainly aid in future development of similar events.

In addition, social media played an important role in PPE distribution events. Businesses were connected with distribution dates and times quickly, and the social media connection helped by passing along the information through their social media networks. (See also, page 4: **Key Update: COVID-19**)



Priority: Disaster Risk Reduction

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program, which funds mitigation projects that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. Two of these HMA programs are the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). BRIC is an annual, nationally-competitive grant that had \$1 billion allocated in the last federal fiscal year (FFY21; in FFY20, \$500 million was allocated); priorities are large infrastructure projects, projects that prepare and reduce the impacts of climate change, and projects that serve historically underserved communities. HMGP funding becomes available after federal disaster declaration, and impacted jurisdictions are given priority for mitigation grant submissions; the COVID pandemic brought \$96 million in HMGP funding for Washington State.

One year into the FEMA-approved [Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (RHMP), there has been success in attracting HMA grants; the RHMP allows any jurisdiction within geographic King County to sign on to the plan with a jurisdiction annex, making the planning process substantially easier and giving the jurisdiction access to HMA grant funding.

King County Government was awarded two BRIC grants (FFY20), validating the County’s commitment to substantial equity and climate change-informed investments in resilient communities:

- King County’s Climate Action Team will develop a strategy to mitigate the urban “heat island” effect
- The Water and Land Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks will update landslide mapping in King County

In addition, the Lake Meridian Water District, which signed on to the RHMP with an annex for the district, was awarded a BRIC (FFY20) grant to do a seismic analysis of one of their water storage facilities. Results for the FFY21 BRIC grant round and FFY21 HMGP round are still pending.

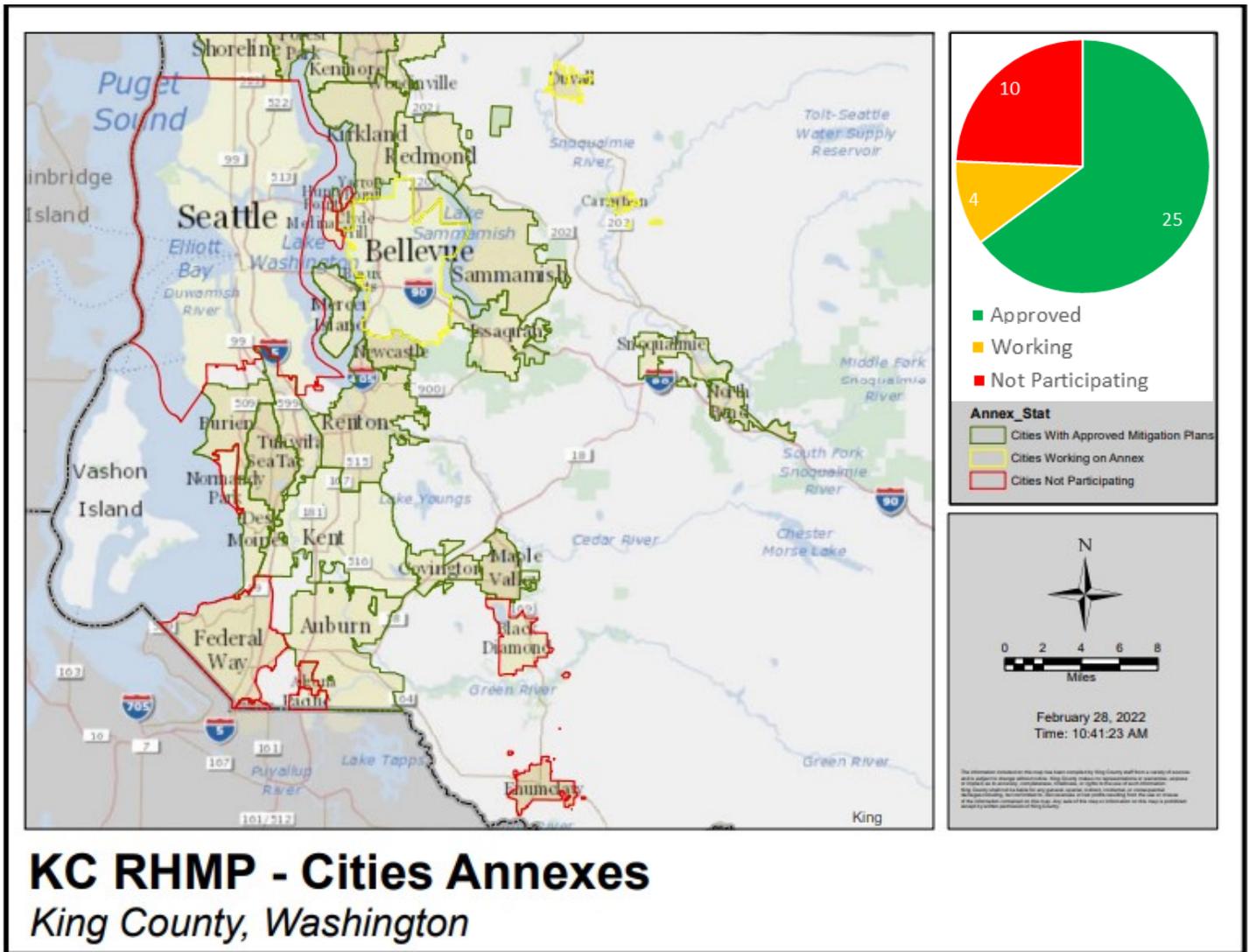
The table below shows a summary of regional (geographic King County) BRIC submissions for the FFY20 and FFY21 grant rounds.

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) HMA Grants				
	BRIC FFY20		BRIC FFY21	
Status	Count	Cost Totals	Count	Cost Totals
Pre-applications	34	\$161,868,744	49	\$414,177,846
State Invite for full applications	24	\$128,353,000	24	\$100,962,378
Submitted to FEMA	8	\$20,363,000	TBD	TBD
Federal selection for further review	3	\$370,736	TBD	TBD

The table below summarizes regional FFY21 HMGP submissions.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program FFY21		
Status	Count	Cost Totals
Pre-applications	10	\$63,543,847
State Invite for full applications	TBD	TBD
Submitted to FEMA	TBD	TBD
Federal selection for further review	TBD	TBD

KCOEM provides leadership and support to the entire region of geographic King County, including through development of plans such as the RHMP. This plan assesses natural and human-caused hazards that can impact the region and develops strategies to reduce risk and build resilience. Nearly 60 planning partners - including school districts, water districts, and cities - participated in the process to develop the RHMP; many of these have already completed annexes to the RHMP, or are in the process of doing so.



The table below shows the number and types of jurisdictions that have signed on to the RHMP and adapted it for their own use.

Status	City	Fire District	School District	Water/Sewer	Total
Approved	25	3	1	21	50
Working	4	0	5	3	12
Not Participating	10	22	13	15	59

Hazards identified in the RHMP that have the potential to affect geographical King County:

Avalanche	Civil Disturbance	Cyber Incident	Dam Failure	Earthquake	Flood	Health Incident
Hazardous Materials	Landslide	Severe Weather	Terrorism	Tsunami	Volcano	Wildfire

Disaster Risk Reduction: Local Emergency Planning Committee

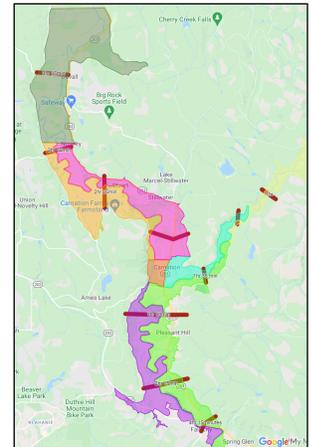
As required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), in 2021 the King County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held regular quarterly meetings, reviewed the King County Hazardous Material Response Plan, participated in exercises, and collected on-site storage chemical reports from local businesses. LEPC meetings include representatives from local business and industry, and partners from local, state, and federal agencies.

EPCRA requires LEPCs to do certain things on an annual basis:

Hold one LEPC meeting each year	✓	Meetings were held quarterly (four in 2021)
Membership is reflective of community	70%	Some vacant spots exist; active recruitment ongoing
Plan contains all required elements	✓	Plan meets required content
Plan reviewed on annual basis	✓	Annual plan review completed in 2021
Collect/maintain chemical inventory forms	✓	Ongoing (by KCOEM)
Provide chemical information to the public upon request	N/A	No requests were made in 2021

Disaster Risk Reduction: Dam Safety

There are 148 dams in the greater region that would impact King County if they were to fail; this includes several dams in other counties that have inundation areas that reach into King County. The 127 dams in the County include nine high hazard dams, along with 87 dams that would have impacts if they fail, plus 31 dams that would have little to no impact in failure. Collectively, these dams serve many beneficial purposes: most dams protect communities from regular flooding, others serve as a source of clean drinking water, and only a few produce electricity for cities. Most of these dams are owned by local governments or private parties; few are owned by the state or federal governments. In coordination with the King County Flood Control District, KCOEM manages a Dam Safety Program to create response plans for high hazard dams, educate at-risk populations to the threat of dam failure, and help acquire resources to repair or remove poor-condition dams. The outreach effort includes educating school children on the benefits and hazards of dams, working with dam operators on developing Emergency Action Plans (EAP), and creating new tools for hazard education.



In 2021, KCOEM worked with the City of Carnation and other partners to publish [inundation maps with evacuation zones](#) (see image to the above right) in the event of an incident involving the South Fork Tolt River Dam. A similar effort is now underway for the Cedar Falls Dam and the cities in the inundation zone.

Categories	Deliverables	Status
South Fork Tolt River Dam Planning and Outreach	Develop evacuation routes	Complete
	Publicize inundation map	Complete
	Develop evacuation zones and evacuation route descriptions	Complete
	Publicize evacuation zones and route descriptions on website	In progress
	Present evacuation zones and route at Carnation Dam Safety event	Complete
	Purchase/deliver radios for Carnation Dam Safety event raffle	Complete
Cedar Falls Dam Planning	Engage with SMEs to establish planning assumptions	Complete
	Develop evacuation routes/zones with KCSO	In progress
	Publicize inundation map	Pending
	Publicize evacuation routes/zones	Pending
Dam Safety General Public Outreach	Develop Public Education curriculum	Complete
	Partner with schools/other community orgs for public outreach	In progress
	Dam Safety Mailer	In progress

Disaster Risk Reduction: Emergency Management Coordinating Committee

The Emergency Management Coordinating Committee (EMCC) is comprised of representatives drawn from each department in King County Government and supplemented by subject matter experts critical to responding to events and emergencies. This group meets monthly to coordinate policies and guidelines, as well as collaborate on lessons learned from incidents affecting government operations.

In 2021, the EMCC contributed to:

- Coordinating the update of Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans in response to King County Council Motion 15650, planning deadlines, etc. (see table below)
- Acting as a clearinghouse for COVID-19 related response activities
- Contributing to the FEMA Core Capabilities Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Report
- Coordinating participation in annual Great Shake Out earthquake drill
- Recruitment and outreach for the TPN
- Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) coordination
- Sharing important training opportunities

Drafting and developing COOP plans were a priority concern for the EMCC in 2021, predicated on multiple factors including: King County Council Motion 15650 mandating all County departments and agencies review current emergency plans; recommendations from the King County Auditor’s Office; and new best practices learned during the pandemic. The EMCC acted as the forum to coordinate and share valuable information on COOP plan development and design for each department. Critical activities such as deconflicting response assumptions and ensuring alignment across departments and agencies has been a high priority. The COOP planning process will continue in 2022.

EMCC attendance (by department)

Agency	2021	2020	2019
King County Council	90%	100%	88%
DAJD	20%	80%	13%
DCHS	80%	70%	50%
DES	100%	100%	100%
King County District Court	80%	60%	13%
DJA	60%	60%	13%
DNRP	100%	100%	88%
Metro	90%	80%	88%
DLS	70%	90%	75%
King County Assessor	30%	20%	38%
PHSKC	100%	100%	88%
King County Elections	90%	90%	63%
Executive Office	70%	40%	50%
DHR	100%	90%	75%
KCIT	70%	60%	25%
KCSO	70%	100%	50%
KCOEM	100%	100%	100%
PAO	100%	90%	0%
King County Superior Court	0%	20%	0%
DPD	40%	30%	13%
Total (target=75%)	74%	77%	48%

Agency COOP plan status

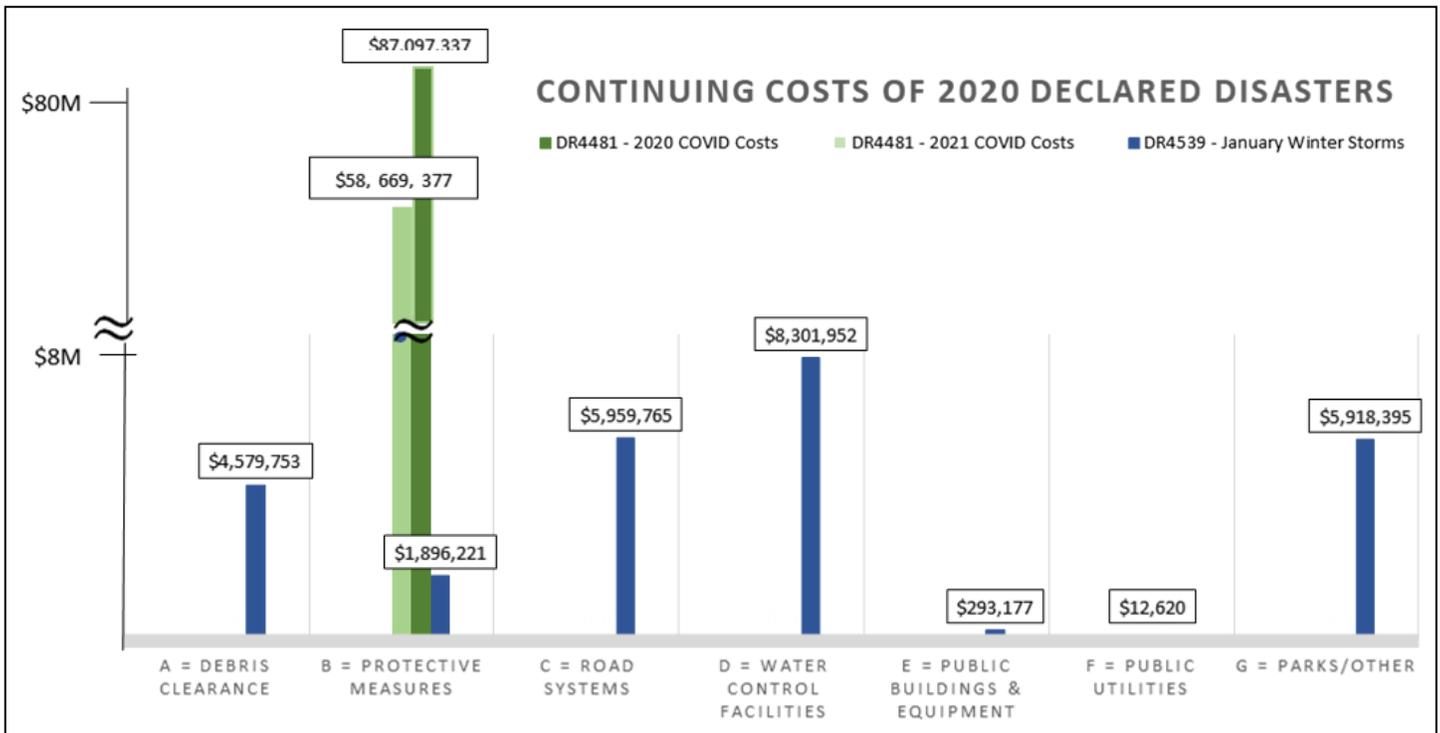
Agency	COOP Status
King County Council	Pending
DAJD	2021
DCHS	2020
DES	2020
King County District Court	2020
DJA	2021
DNRP	2017
Metro	2020
DLS	2021
King County Assessor	2017
PHSKC	2021
King County Elections	2020
Executive Office	2018
DHR	2020
KCIT	2017
KCSO	2017
PAO	Pending
King County Superior Court	2020
DPD	2014

Disaster Risk Reduction: Federal Assistance

FEMA Public Assistance Program

KCOEM is the coordinating agency for the County when applying for FEMA Public Assistance following a disaster. A large part of this effort is a damage assessment, which includes a canvass of local entities to ascertain damage to public facilities and infrastructure within the geographic borders. In 2021, KCOEM conducted damage assessments for two weather events: January Sneak Attack Windstorm, and November Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Mudslides, and Landslides.

The graph below shows updated and continuing costs of federal disaster declarations issued in 2020 (DR-4539 January Winter Storms and DR-4481 COVID-19).



Technical Assistance

In 2021, KCOEM provided technical assistance to King County department and division -level staff members to help formulate and refine almost 50 different projects for FEMA Public Assistance Program reimbursement funding. To help facilitate this highly technical process, numerous assistance sessions were conducted with each affected County agency.

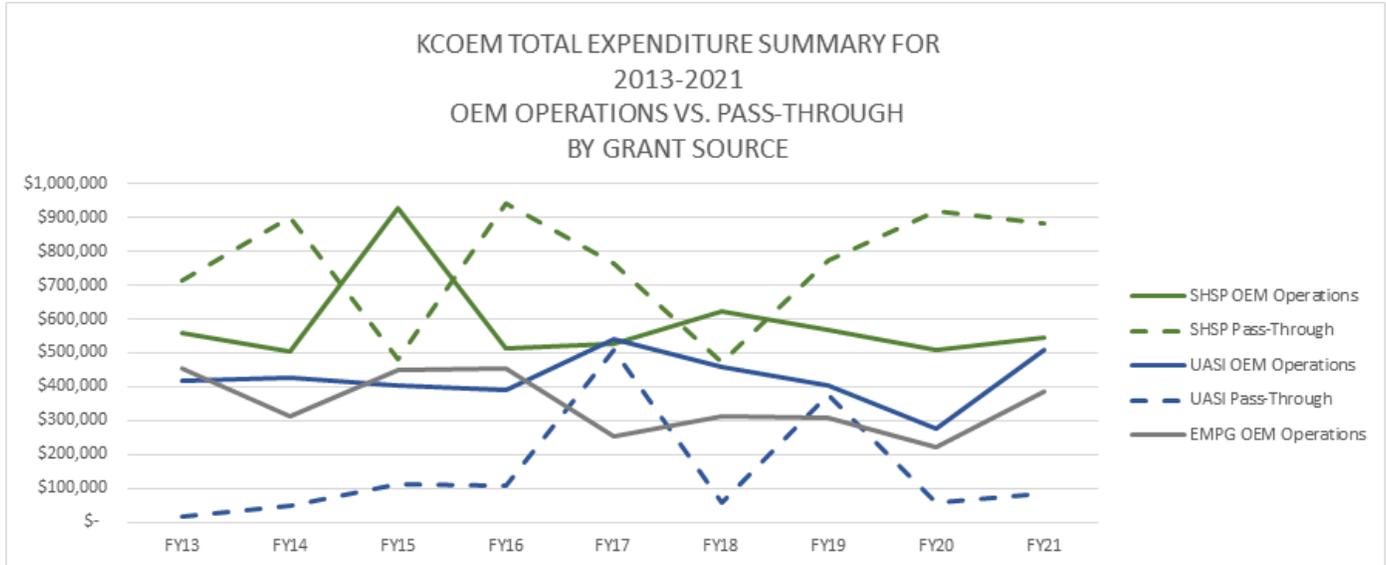
	Agencies Participating in Public Assistance	KCOEM Meetings Held with Agencies	Current Projects for FEMA Public Assistance	Estimated Expenses
Jan-Feb Winter Storms	5	15	42	\$30,527,827
COVID-19	15	30	5	\$145,766,714

U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program

After most major incidents, KCOEM also facilitates the collection of information to support a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Declaration. Not all assessments result in a declaration, but the ones that do enable those severely impacted businesses and individuals to apply for low interest loans. In 2021, KCOEM provided technical assistance for seven multi-unit fires that resulted in one Economic Injury Declaration (EIDL), for businesses in White Center, and one Physical Disaster Declaration, for residents and business affected by the Hanover Apartments fire in SeaTac.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

Federal funds under the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) consist of the SHSP and the UASI. Investments are administered by KCOEM and include an annual assessment that identifies capability gaps based on community stakeholder input. Additionally, in 2020 and 2021, KCOEM received small increases in Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding in the form of COVID supplemental funding; this is unlikely to continue in the future; EMPG is a separate FEMA grant program, not part of HSGP.



The table below shows the disciplines and types of regional projects receiving “pass-through” funding by the SHSP and UASI programs. Direct support to OEM is at the bottom of the table.

Discipline	Project Title	2020		2021	
		SHSP	UASI	SHSP	UASI
Fire/EMS	Structural Collapse Training and Equipment	\$320,000		\$305,000	
	Rescue Task Force Ballistics Protection				
	HazMat Suits	\$80,000		\$40,000	
	Gas Detectors	\$80,000			
Law Enforcement	Special Teams Equipment	\$110,000		\$270,000	\$100,000
	Fusion Center (staffing support)	\$85,000		\$85,000	
	Situational Awareness System (ATAK)	\$50,000		\$50,000	
	Counter-Terrorism Training	\$40,000			
	Aviation	\$35,000	\$275,000		\$82,000
Public Health	Community Assessment (staffing support)		\$40,000		
	Disaster Behavioral Health (staffing support)		\$80,000		
Mass Care	Access & Functional Needs Shelter Supplies			\$5,000	
	Animal Services Shelter Supplies	\$20,000			
	Mass Care		\$10,000		
Cyber Security	Cyber Security Workshop	\$10,000	\$75,000	\$80,000	
Regional Coordination	Zone Coordinators	\$200,000		\$240,000	
Subtotal		\$1,030,000	\$480,000	\$1,075,000	\$182,000

KC OEM Funding	Public Education	\$70,000	\$165,000	\$50,000	\$123,000
	Regional Planning (staffing support)	\$260,000	\$270,000	\$305,000	\$290,000
	EOC Instructional Videos	\$25,000			
Subtotal		\$355,000	\$435,000	\$355,000	\$413,000

Total	\$1,385,000	\$915,000	\$1,430,000	\$595,000
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King County

Emergency Management

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