



# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP) 101: PARTNERING WITH TRIBAL NATIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Department of Health – Office of Resilience and Health  
Security

## Overview

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- Introduction to building an emergency management program
- Understanding public health emergency systems
- Exploring Tribal and state collaboration opportunities
- Response collaboration in action
- Understanding the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant

# Public Health Emergency Management Systems

Organized approach  
to managing  
emergencies

Protect life, property,  
and the environment

Reduce harm and  
damage

Maintain essential  
services

Help communities  
recover

Integrates FEMA and  
CDC Emergency  
Management  
Structures

# National Incident Management System (NIMS)

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- Guides all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from incidents
- Incident Command System (ICS)
  - Standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of on-scene incident management that provides a common hierarchy within which personnel from multiple organizations can be effective

# FEMA Five Mission Areas

- National Preparedness Goal
  - Defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all hazards
- 5 Core Mission Areas
  - Prevention
  - Protection
  - Mitigation
  - Response
  - Recovery
- 32 core capabilities needed to address each mission area



## National Preparedness Goal

Second Edition  
November 2015

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# Emergency Management Cycle

**DISASTER OCCURS**

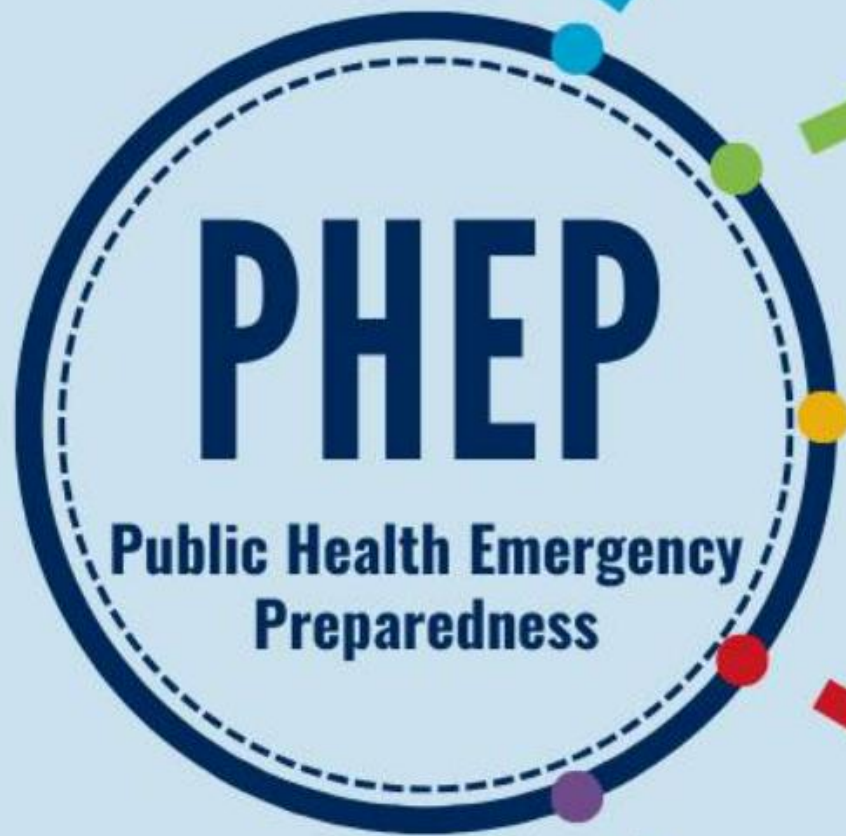
Planning is located within Preparedness

Emergency management begins **AND** ends with planning



## Planning Provides:

- Identify relevant partners for the threat or hazard
- Better groupthink about what the threat or hazard could entail
- Unique perspective about the community facing the threat or hazard
- Partner roles and reasonability defined
- Refining the plan over time



# PHEP

## Public Health Emergency Preparedness



### 01. Emergency Planning and Coordination

Assist in developing and updating public health emergency response plans, ensuring that procedures are in place for various types of emergencies such as pandemics, natural disasters, or bioterrorism events.



### 02. Training and Drills:

Organizes training sessions and simulation exercises for healthcare workers, first responders, and public health professionals to ensure they are prepared for a wide range of emergency situations.



### 03. Surveillance and Monitoring:

Monitor public health data to detect potential outbreaks or health threats, often working with local, state, and federal agencies to track and respond to emerging issues.



### 04. Resource Management

Help manage resources like medical supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), vaccines, and medications. They ensure that resources are distributed efficiently during emergencies.



### 05. Public Communication and Education

Before and during public health emergencies, PHEP workers help disseminate information to the public, advising on safety precautions, preventive measures, and where to access health services.

# Emergency Management Can Help Fill the Gaps

Communication gaps

Unclear roles

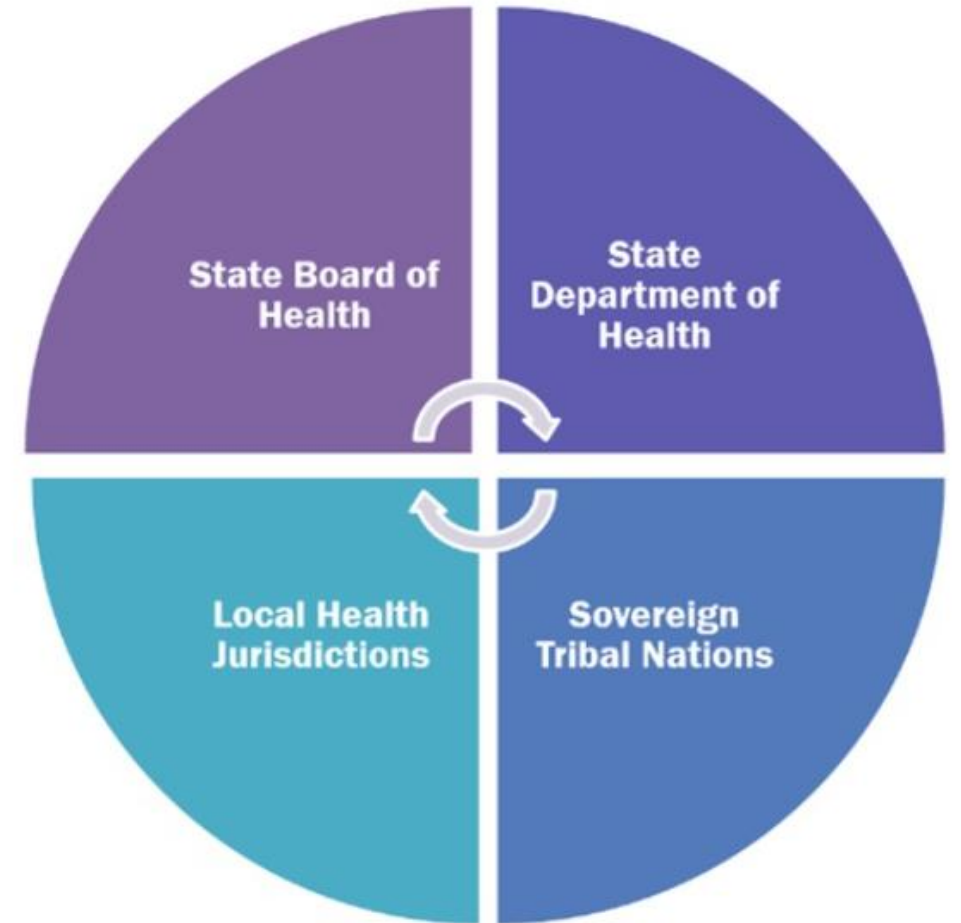
Resource limitations

Rapidly changing situations

Community resilience through preparedness

# Tribal Nations Public Health

1. Sovereign Tribal Nation define their own service population areas and are committed to promoting and protecting the health and well being of tribal members and all people residing in those defined areas
2. Many Tribes operate their own health care systems, recognized through the Office of Tribal Self Governance | Indian Health Service HIS
3. Historically Tribes have not been funded for public health and over the years many Tribes have developed unique systems and structures to meet their specific health care needs.
4. There are 29 federally recognized Sovereign Tribal Nation and two Urban Indian Health Organizations in WA. All Tribes are part of the public health system



# Why Coordination Matters



EMERGENCIES REQUIRE A  
WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH



TRIBAL NATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL  
PARTNERS



STRONG RELATIONSHIPS  
IMPROVE OUTCOMES



## **TRIBAL & DOH COORDINATION IN ACTION**

Planning

Workgroups

Trainings

Exercises

Disease Surveillance

Situational Awareness

Information Sharing

Resource Coordination

DOH Incident Management Team Representation

Joint Emergency Response Activation

# Questions on Joint Coordination & Collaboration

01

WHAT TYPES OF EMERGENCIES HAVE MOST IMPACTED YOUR COMMUNITY?

02

WHAT COORDINATION & COLLABORATION STRATEGIES BETWEEN TRIBAL NATIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ARE CURRENTLY WORKING?

03

HOW CAN WE INCREASE THAT COORDINATION & COLLABORATION DURING MITIGATION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY PHASES?

During Tribal and Local  
Public health responses

# WA State Department of Health as a Response Partner

During statewide SEOC  
activations as Emergency  
Support Function 8 (ESF8)

# Response – Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)

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# Supporting Tribal-Led Response

Recognize

Recognize Tribal leadership in emergencies

Align

Align state efforts with Tribal priorities

Support

Provide flexible support and resources

- Full IMT
- Single resource
- DOH Response Team (ERT)

# Examples of Response Coordination Between Tribes and DOH

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Honor Tribal sovereignty and authority



Port Angeles Fuel Spill Response

# Strengthening Response Partnerships



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS  
BEFORE EMERGENCIES



ESTABLISH CLEAR  
COMMUNICATION  
CHANNELS



SUPPORT TRIBAL-LED  
INITIATIVES AND  
LEADERSHIP

# Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)



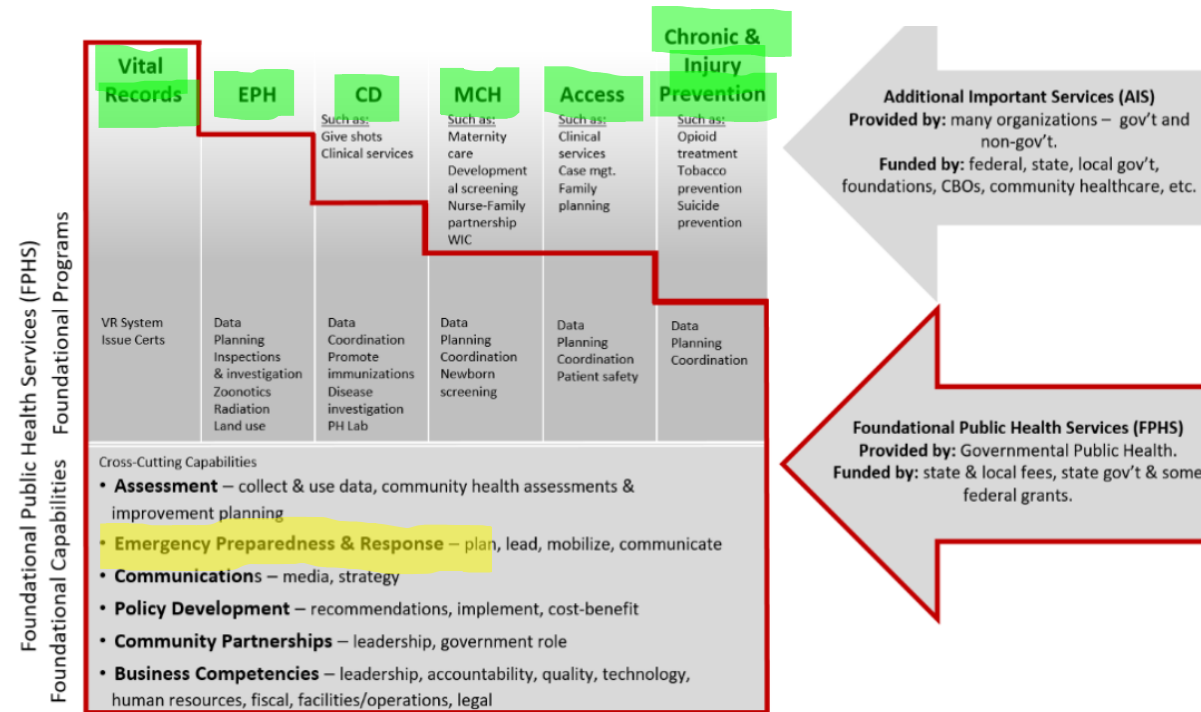
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Critical source of funding for state, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments. PHEP provides assistance to public health departments build and strengthen their abilities to effectively respond to public health threats since 2002.

15 capabilities serve as national standards for public health preparedness planning. These are vital frameworks to operationalize and evaluate the ability to prepared for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

# CDC PHEP Capabilities

1. Community Preparedness
2. Community Recovery
3. Emergency Operations Coordination
4. Emergency Public Information and Warning
5. Fatality Management
6. Information Sharing
7. Mass Care
8. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing and Administration
9. Medical Material Management and Distribution
10. Medical Surge
11. Nonpharmaceutical Interventions
12. Public Health Laboratory Testing
13. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation
14. Responder Safety Health
15. Volunteer Management



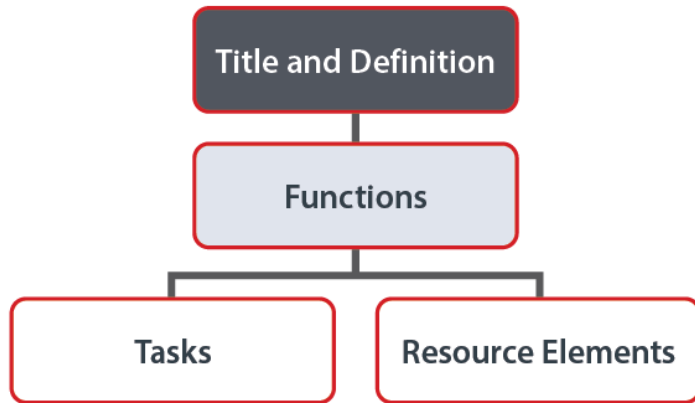
## Underlying questions

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- Can we respond in a timely manner?
- Do we know our roles well enough to stabilize a public health incident?
- Are we learning from experience and improving?
- Are we following through on addressing identified gaps?
- Do we have processes in place to track progress over time?
- Can we make medical countermeasures rapidly accessible to our entire population?
- Can we rapidly alert our staff and partners of emergency situations?
- Can we rapidly alert the public?
- Do we know the status of critical healthcare facilities?

# PHEP outputs

## Capability Structure: Composition



**Capability Resource Elements**—Resources a jurisdiction should have or have access to in order to successfully perform capability tasks associated with capability functions. Resource elements are listed sequentially to align with corresponding tasks in each function. While not necessarily listed first, “**priority**” resource elements are potentially the most critical for completing capability tasks based on jurisdictional risk assessments and other forms of community input. The three categories of capability resource elements are

- **Preparedness (P)**—Components to consider within existing operational plans, standard operating procedures, guidelines, documents, or other types of written agreements, such as contracts or memoranda of understanding (MOUs)
- **Skills and Training (S/T)**—General baseline descriptions, competencies, and skills that personnel and teams should possess in order to achieve a capability
- **Equipment and Technology (E/T)**—Infrastructure a jurisdiction should have or have access to with sufficient quantities or levels of effectiveness to achieve the intent of any related capability task

# Example – Capability 3 Emergency Operations Coordination

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## Preparedness Resource Elements

**P1: (Priority)** Response procedures in place to detail how the agency manages and responds to situational awareness information that indicates when a jurisdictional incident with public health consequences requires an agency-level response.

Identify incidents where public health will function as the lead agency in coordination with other agencies or where public health will not function as the lead agency, but the incident has significant public health implications including localized incidents and incidents of national significance, which include Presidentially-declared emergencies, major disasters, and catastrophes that pose a public health threat.

## Skills and Training Resource Elements

**S/T1:** Personnel trained in incident management, as applicable to their role. At a minimum, personnel should complete the following NIMS courses

- Introduction to Incident Command System (IS-100.b)
- Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (IS-200.b)
- Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS-300)
- Advanced Incident Command System (ICS-400)
- National Incident Management System, An Introduction (IS-700.a)
- National Response Framework, An Introduction (IS-800.b)
- Beyond Initial Response: Using the National Incident Management System's Incident Command System

## Equipment and Technology Resource Elements

**E/T1:** Primary and backup communications systems, which may include

- Cellular telephones with chargers
- Dual-band and P25 compliant radios (walkie-talkies)
- Fax machines
- Amateur (HAM) radio
- High-frequency radios
- Internet
- Non-technology dependent systems
- Satellite communication
- Telephones and dedicated telephone lines
- Television

## PHEP Funding Role

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- Supports statewide PH capabilities
- Enhances infrastructure, workforce, and response systems
- Enables planning, training, and exercises
- Strengthens cross-jurisdictional coordination

# QUESTIONS?



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