

PRE-PLANNING FOR RECOVERY

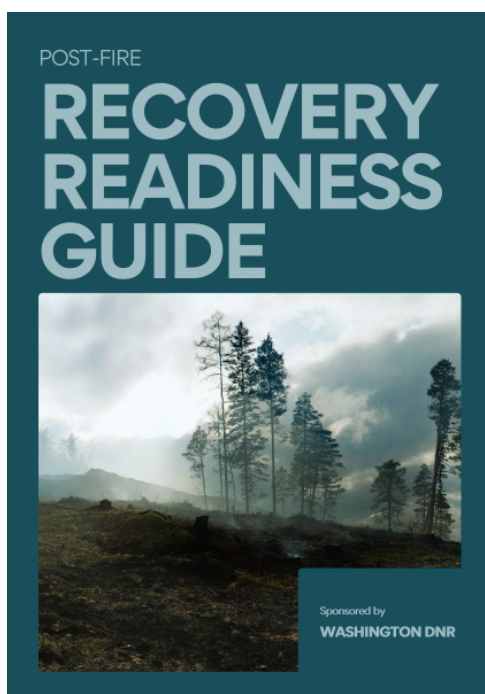
Mechanisms for planning ahead

Pre-Planning for Post-Fire Recovery

Post-fire recovery is a critical but often overlooked aspect of planning for wildfire resilience. By proactively integrating recovery preparedness into planning efforts, communities can better prepare for disaster before it strikes. This approach strengthens partnerships, secures essential resources, and clearly defines roles and responsibilities, leading to efficient and effective recovery efforts.

Most hazard mitigation and emergency management plans focus mainly on the short-term impacts of a natural disaster like evacuation, sheltering, and urgent repairs to public infrastructure. While these are key facets of responding to and recovering from a disaster, expanding plans to incorporate more mid- to long-term recovery considerations comes with additional benefits and opportunities, including:

- Faster recovery timelines
- Access to federal and state funding for mitigation
- Identification of gaps
- Greater consideration for equitable distribution of resources in a recovery scenario
- Anticipation of secondary disasters after fire
- Time to identify and plan for the complex systems of public funding, including the creation of back-up plans should federal funding fall through
- Establishment of efficient spending on mitigation and recovery actions
- Creation of documentation systems that ensure it will be easier to get paid back for recovery efforts
- Reduction of duplicated efforts before, during, and after a fire.



Post-Fire Recovery Readiness Guide and Toolbox

This **guide** was created to support local jurisdictions to develop shared understanding, plans, and processes that build critical recovery readiness for wildfire*. It covers three main topics areas:

1. Recovery Operations and Governance
2. Phases of Recovery
3. Local Recovery Support Functions & Lines of Effort.

**This guide does not supersede any local recovery or emergency management plans.*

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Mechanisms for planning ahead

Key Components

- **Process-based.** This is not just a list of ingredients, but a step-by-step how-to that walks communities through the entire recovery timeline from pre-fire to long-term recovery.
- **Community-focused.** Intended to involve the whole community and outlines roles and responsibilities across sectors (i.e. housing, infrastructure, economy) while building the required relationships for robust recovery.
- **Action-oriented.** Includes exercises that can be worked on collaboratively with recovery leaders and stakeholders.

Want further guidance? Watch the [training videos](#) for the guide and toolkit sections.

TOOLBOX

The **toolbox** provides further information, activities, customizable checklists, and templates to develop foundational recovery readiness across key recovery phases and needs:

1. Planning
2. Building Capacity
3. Financing Recovery
4. Communications
5. Lines of Effort

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

CWPPs are an extremely useful mechanism for incorporating post-fire recovery into wildfire resilience planning. Through the CWPP process, communities already establish all the necessary structures and partnerships. Further, including recovery actions in CWPPs allows communities to dedicate state and federal funding toward recovery-related mitigation activities, ultimately making the road to recovery faster and easier.

There's no prescription for how to integrate recovery into CWPPs, however, as more jurisdictions begin to do so, best practices and lessons learned are beginning to be amassed.

1. Engage diverse stakeholders and build a recovery network. Often, this means including additional partners beyond the usual scope of preparedness and mitigation work, such as public works, emergency management, geologists, insurance companies, and other community organizations.
2. Assess existing capabilities and resources, but also determine any gaps. See [Assets and Gaps Assessment Template](#)
3. Identify relevant recovery preparedness actions that specifically address your community's values and needs. See [Recommended Actions & Considerations](#).
4. Consider including the creation and maintenance of a [Recovery Readiness Guide](#) as an action item in your CWPP.
5. Use in-person exercises to map your recovery and build relationships. E.g. identify members for a local BAER team or complete table top exercises included in the [Recovery Readiness Guide](#)
6. Keep in mind, these are living documents and need review and updating on a regular basis. Always revisit and adapt your plan

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Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs)

HMPs, although not wildfire-specific, are one of the best mechanisms for implementing hazard assessments and planning for the restoration of critical built infrastructure after a fire. Creating or updating an HMP alongside a CWPP sets up counties for fully integrated, county-wide disaster preparedness and response (e.g. **Chelan County**). Maintaining an updated, FEMA-approved HMP also unlocks potential FEMA mitigation funding for post-fire recovery actions.

Helpful tip: There's no need to write two separate wildfire-related plans, rather, counties can use their CWPPs as the HMP wildfire chapter.

Typical post-fire hazards to include in HMPs:

- Debris flow
- Flooding and increased stormwater runoff
- Rock fall
- Household and natural debris management

Mitigations to include:

- Information systems to protect life (signage, early warning systems, etc.)
- Hazard assessments (e.g. WALERT/BAER):
 - Map recent and historic burn scars and overlay them with floodplains, steep slopes, and critical infrastructure.
 - Communities can use these post-fire assessments to develop and prioritize mitigation actions before or after a fire.
- Identifying downstream communities, roads, and utilities vulnerable to debris flows and sedimentation. Specific actions could cover:
 - * Debris basin construction
 - * Channel stabilization
 - * Road and bridge hardening
 - * Stormwater retrofits
 - * Renforcing critical infrastructure from post-fire impacts

- Agricultural and rangeland considerations (e.g. animal sheltering networks, repairing livestock infrastructure)
- Mental health support networks
- Identifying emergency shelters as well as planning for medium- to long-term housing for displaced residents.

CWPP RESOURCES

WRCD Toolkit

- [Recovery Preparedness Integration Guide](#)
- [Recommended Actions & Considerations](#)
- [Potential Partners List](#)
- [Assets and Gaps Assessment Template](#)

[Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery Briefing Papers](#)

[WAFAC Webinar and Resource Guide](#)

HMP RESOURCES

- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning](#)
- [Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Guide for Local Governments](#)
- [Integrating CWPPs and HMPs](#)

GENERAL RECOVERY PLANNING RESOURCES

- [WAFAC Recovery Planning Toolkit](#)
- [WAFAC Recovery Planning Webinar](#)
- [WA Emergency Management Planning](#)
- [WA DNR Wildfire Associated Debris Flows](#)