

## Firgrove Mutual Water Company's Hazard Mitigation Plan

Tap water - always there for you, right? Many of us don't really think much about our tap water, unless we lose service, or something doesn't seem right.

Have you ever wondered, "What if an earthquake or other natural catastrophe resulted in major damage to water infrastructure?" "What if someone were to attempt to contaminate our water supply?" "What if civil unrest or a major transportation emergency were to impact the ability of water system personnel to do their jobs?" "Does my water company have a back-up plan?" "Have measures been formulated in advance to prepare for, and respond to, natural and man-made emergencies?"

In addition to established protocol that ensures continuity of operations, Firgrove does indeed have a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) that was developed in collaboration with Pierce County and partnering entities and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This coordinated effort serves to make additional resources available to Firgrove in the event of a large-scale disaster, while also minimizing Firgrove's vulnerability through advanced planning.

Another benefit of having an approved HMP is that it makes Firgrove eligible to apply for grant money for qualifying projects. This helps offset revenue requirements for the utility's capital improvement plan and, in turn, reduce the cost to shareholders when aging water infrastructure needs to be upgraded or replaced.

In short, Firgrove's HMP helps to decrease the impacts from disasters and improves water system resiliency at reduced cost through FEMA grants or disaster reimbursement.

The HMP was recently updated, and shareholders are invited to review updates at [www.firgrove.org](http://www.firgrove.org).

Additionally, if you are interested in developing a personal household emergency response plan, or beefing up the plan you already have, please visit the Pierce County Personal Preparedness webpage at <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/945/Personal-Preparedness> where you can find links and information to help you with the following:

- Make a Plan
- Know Your Hazards
- Help Others
- Preparedness Academy
- Neighborhood Preparedness
- Info on Mt. Rainier
- Build a Kit
- Sign up for Pierce County Alert and receive messages about severe weather, law enforcement incidents in your area, road closures, etc.

Your feedback is valued and can be provided to Steve Sacksteder via email at: [ssacksteder@firgrove.org](mailto:ssacksteder@firgrove.org) or by phone at: 253-845-1542 x125.