Functional Assessment Service Teams:  
*The Pierce County Pilot Project*

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Pierce County Department of Emergency Management

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**Pierce County, Washington**

- Second most populated county in WA
- Population estimates 861,312  
  - Persons 65 and older 13.4%  
  - Persons with a disability (<65) 10.1%  
  - Persons in poverty 12.4%  
- Language other than English spoken at home 14.9%  
- English spoken less than “very well” 38.2%
Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST)

Trained social service professionals ready to respond to disaster shelters

FAST Member Duties

- Coordinate with shelter managers
- Conduct assessments
- Arrange for support
- Request resources
FAST Member Qualifications

- Two years of professional experience
- ICS 100/200/700
- Pass background check
- Work under difficult and stressful conditions

FAST will help assess people with accommodation needs and assist them by getting what they need to stay in a shelter.
Except for people who are medically fragile, all people should be able to stay in general shelters during emergencies and disasters.

Access and Functional needs

Five categories of functional needs under FEMA’s definition (C-MIST):

- Communication
- Maintaining Health
- Independence
- Safety, Support, Self-determination
- Transportation
FAST beginnings in Pierce County

- May 2012 – First two-day training held
- June 2013 – began monthly meetings
- July 2012 – first sheltering exercise for team
- Assisting other counties with training

Pierce County Project Partners
Experience Areas

- Mental health
- Behavioral health
- Developmental disabilities
- Cognitive disabilities
- Low vision/blindness
- Deaf/hard of hearing
- Chemical dependencies
- Substance abuse
- Physical health
- Personal support services
- Physical disabilities
- Cultural/religious needs
- Communication barriers
- Aging
- People experiencing homelessness

Some of our Members

- Associated Ministries
- Brain Energy Support Team
- Brain Injury Alliance of WA
- CARES of WA
- Catholic Community Services
- Center for Independence
- Pierce County Human Services
- Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources
- Hearing, Speech, and Deaf Center
- Comprehensive Life Resources – PATH
- Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community
- Northwest Services for Independent Living
- Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities
- Western State Hospital
Struggles

- Member Engagement
- Training opportunities
- Limited opportunities to shelter
- Getting Agency Buy-in
- Understanding role of FAST
  - Agencies and individuals

Moving forward
FAST Team Sustainability and ‘Next Steps’
Continued FAST Trainings

- Presentations on social service disciplines or programs
- Scenario based discussions
- Tabletop exercises
- Shelter Exercises

Monthly Team Member Trainings

Date: April 15, 2014
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: File Community Center
321 E 4th Street
File, IN 46924

Register:
For more information please call (574) 739-9260 or email [fast certification@purcell-schools.org](mailto:fast-certification@purcell-schools.org)
In the Emergency Operations Center

FAST Coordinator
FAST Liaison

Exercises

CASCADIA RISING EXERCISE 2016
BY THE PIERCE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING TEAM
Exercises - FAST members:

- Participated on Exercise Planning Team
- Developed realistic picture of shelter needs
- Crafted resource requests for Exercise
- Served in Emergency Operations Center
- Worked in the Exercise Simulation Center

Planning Committees

- Mt. Rainier Coordination Plan Working Group
  - Evacuation and Sheltering Annex
  - Communication Annex

- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Review Committee

- Pierce County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Workshops
FAST Trailers

Next Steps

Get Deployed!
Contact information

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Pierce County (WA) Department of Emergency Management