

2025 Atmospheric River Response

Emergency Management
After-Action Report Briefing





Thank you!

Why This AAR Matters



Severe weather events are becoming more frequent and complex.

- **This After-Action Report & Improvement Plan help us:**

- Understand how we performed during the incident
- Learn from what worked well
- Identify where we can improve
- Strengthen how we prepare for and respond to future incidents

- **Why It Matters:**

- Protects public safety and our employees
- Maintains system reliability
- Reduces financial risk and improves cost recovery
- Builds trust with our employees and customers



Nisqually Hydroelectric Project – Alder Dam Spill

Our Response & What We Learned

Event Overview

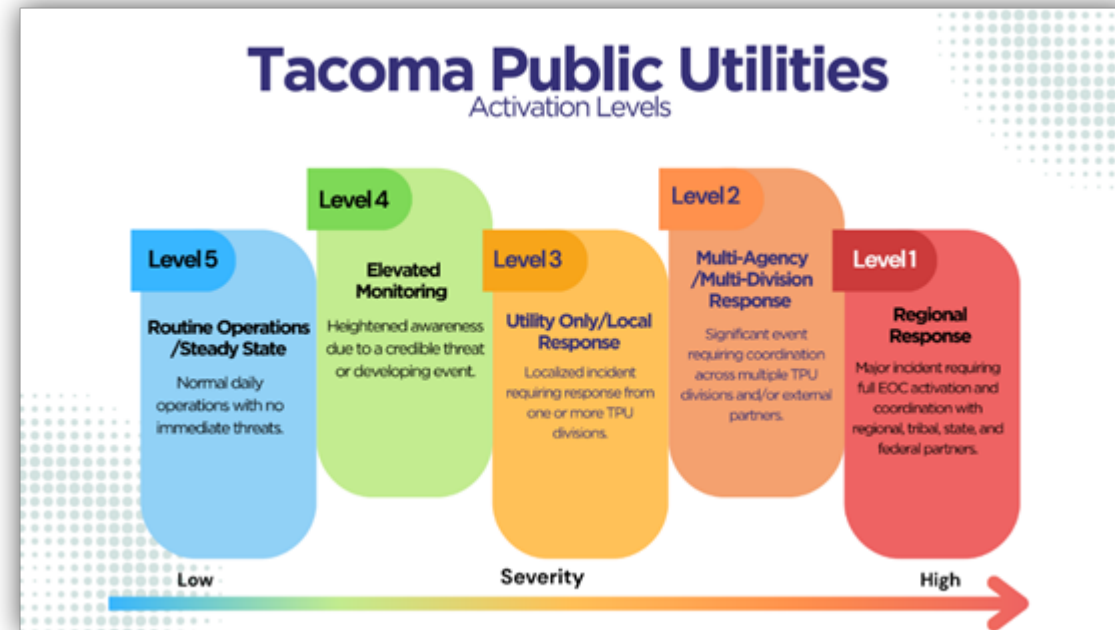


Prolonged atmospheric river events impacted WA (Dec. 3-22, 2025)

- Sustained rainfall, flooding, landslides, and wind

TPU Emergency Management Program Response & Coordination

- ICS Activations & Activation Levels:
 - **Water- Headworks** – began monitoring on 12/3 (Level 4); increased activation on 12/9 for response (Level 3).
 - **Power, Management & Generation** – began monitoring on 12/3 (Level 4); increase activation on 12/8 for utility-only response (Level 3)
 - **Power, T&D** – began monitoring on 12/15 (Level 4); increased activation on 12/17 for utility-only response (Level 3).



Flooding / Atmospheric River

- Power Management & Generation
 - Elevated reservoir inflows
 - Spill operations & dam safety coordination
 - Sustained operational tempo
 - External partner engagement (EMAs, NWS)
- Water, Headworks
 - Flooding and landslide
 - External partner engagement (EMAs, NWS)

Windstorm

- Power T&D
 - Forecast-driven activation
 - Widespread outages
 - High customer call volume
 - Overlapping operational impacts

Operational Complexity

What Made this Event Challenging:

- Overlapping hazards (wind, flooding, landslides)
- Extended duration
- High demand for real-time information (customers, employees, and partners)
- Multi-division coordination



Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project –
Mayfield Lake Woody Debris



Headworks: Charley Creek

After-Action Report/Improvement Plan Process



Incident:
Atmospheric River

- Hotwashes Completed
- 12/23 - Generation
 - 12/23 – T&D
 - 1/4 - Water

- Draft complete
- For review

- Prioritize, assign, and resolve corrective actions
- Update plans & procedures

- Exercise changes to plans and/or procedures

How We Performed



What we saw during this event:

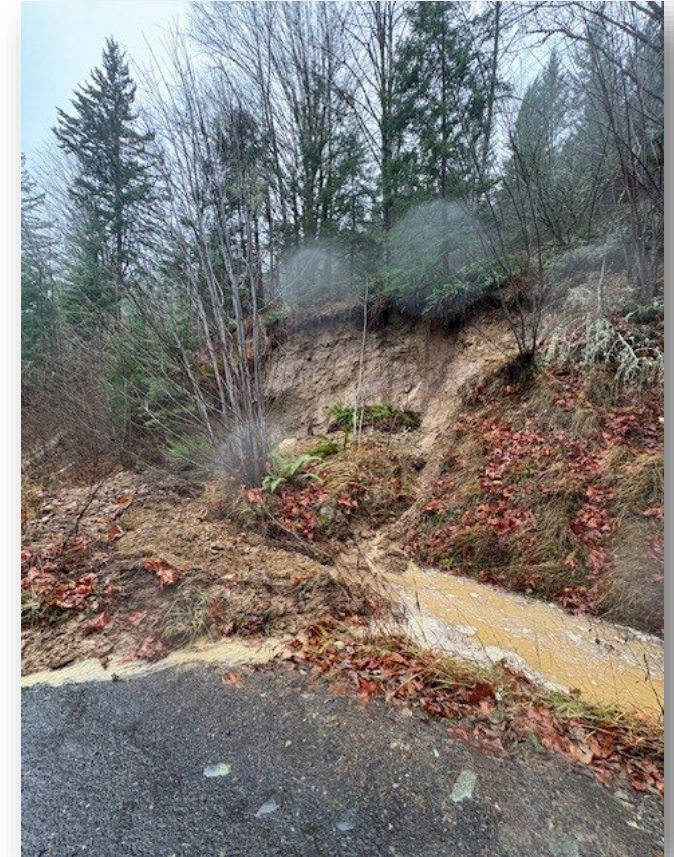
- Earlier, more proactive activations
- Stronger coordination across divisions
- Good engagement with partners
- More structured planning during response

Emergency Management Program Maturity

Building a More Coordinated EM Program



- Clearer structure (activation levels, ICS)
- Better coordination across divisions
- Stronger planning and situational awareness
- Stronger partnerships with our jurisdictional partners



Headworks: 16 mile

Where We Continue to Improve



- Clearer command structure during escalation
- More consistent situational awareness
- Stronger enterprise-wide communication
- More disciplined documentation (cost recovery, ICS)
- Continuing to build depth in ICS trained staff



Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project – Mayfield Dam Spill

Strengthening Our Program



- Defined activation levels across TPU
- Continued investment in ICS (training, tools, exercises)
- Clearer roles and responsibilities (RACI)
 - EM Policy Update



Cowlitz Hydroelectric Project – Mossyrock Dam Spill



Nisqually Hydroelectric Project – LaGrande Dam Spill

Strengthening Coordination & Planning



- **Focused 5-year Emergency Management Work Plan**
- **Stronger alignment with regional partners (pre-incident, response, post incident)**
 - Quarterly jurisdictional director meetings
- **Coordination before, during, and after incidents**
- **Advanced mitigation planning (Pierce County & wildfire)**

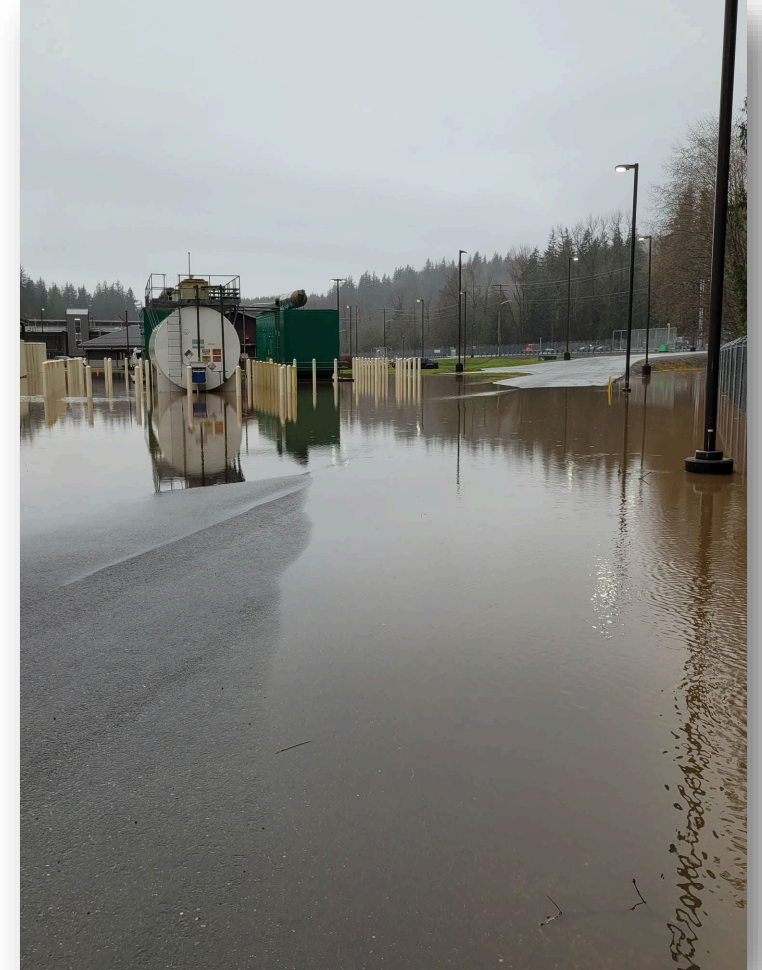


Headworks: Intake

Alignment with City Framework



- Updating the City's CEMP
- Aligning TPU practices with citywide response
- Improving integration with emergency management partners



Headworks office

What This Means Moving Forward



Risk & Outlook



- **This Event Signals a Shift:**
 - Events are happening more often
 - They're lasting longer
 - They're impacting multiple systems at the same time
- **The risk if we don't adapt:**
 - Slower response and restoration
 - Higher operational and financial costs
 - Potential for greater customer impact
 - Recouping costs via FEMA



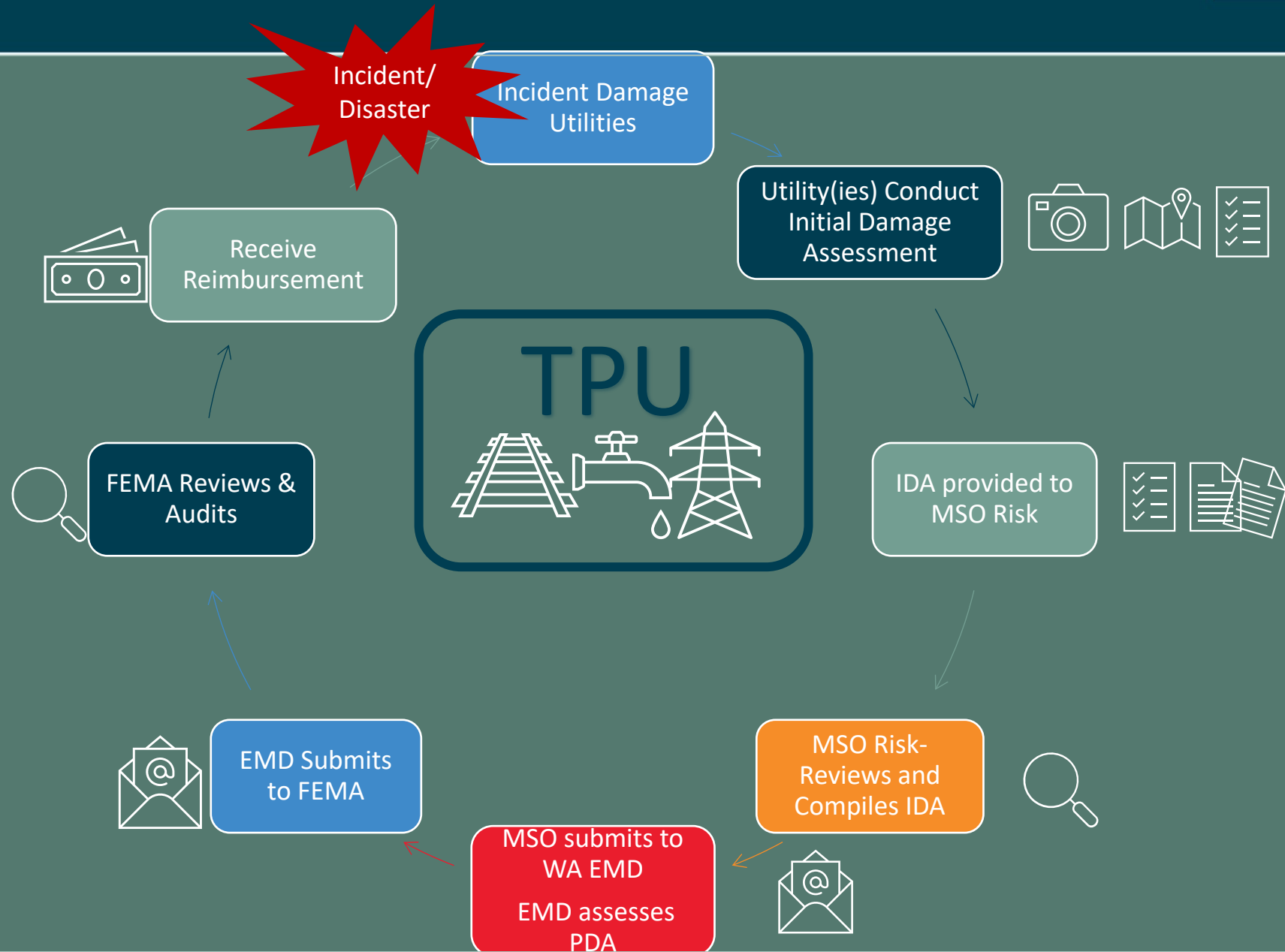
Nisqually Hydroelectric Project – Alder Lake
Woody Debris - After

FEMA Reimbursement

Ken Clark & Kristy Baker



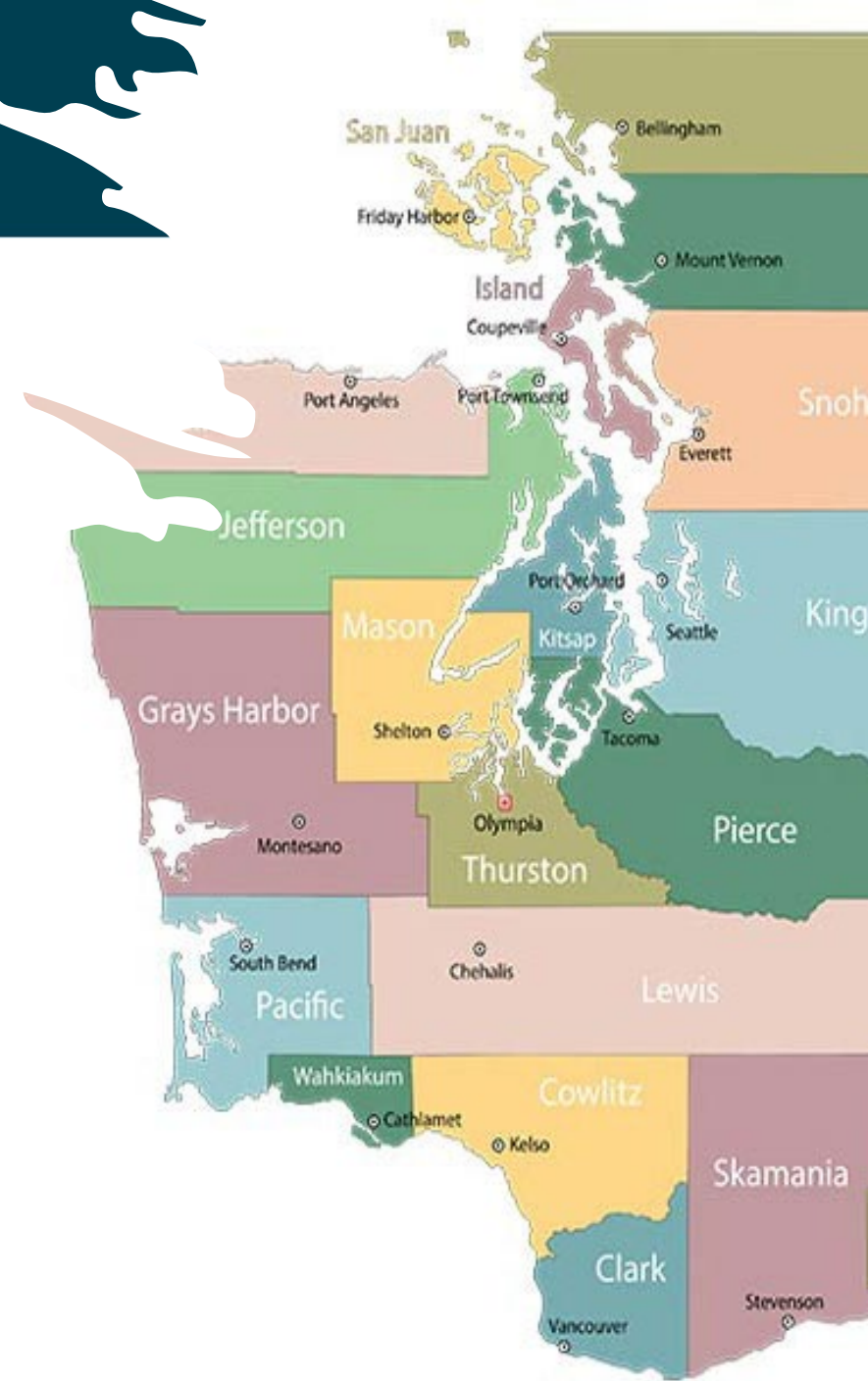
FEMA Reimbursement Process



2026 Public Assistance Thresholds

- Grays Harbor-\$367,590.96
- King- \$11,030,620.50
- Lewis-\$399,244.14
- Mason-\$319,428.36
- Pierce- \$4,476,691.80
- Thurston-\$1,432,693.98

- **WA \$14,948,245.14**



TPU- FEMA Reimbursable Losses



- Green River Headworks- \$627,500
- Nisqually Debris Cleanup- \$125,791
- Cowlitz Debris Cleanup- \$98,125
- T&D Outage Costs- \$635,847

- **Total, December 2025 Storms \$1,487,262**

Closing Comments



Next Steps



Moving Forward:

- Implement targeted improvements
- Strengthen cross-division communication & coordination
- Continuing training and exercise

Board Support Needed



- **Continue investment in Emergency Management**
- **Sustain the investment in training, exercise, and continuous improvement (participation across divisions)**
 - Public Assistance Training (May/June)
- **Support long-term preparedness efforts**

Closing Message



We are making real progress.

This event showed what's working and where we can continue to keep improving.

Questions/Discussion