



**Snohomish County  
County Executive's Office**

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**Aaron Reardon**

*County Executive*

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## Executive Reardon praises cities' approval of transition plan to create new emergency agency

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*Vote clears way to having independent Department of  
Emergency Management join Snohomish County government*

Cities in the independent agency that plans for emergencies approved the transition, which will transfer management authority to Snohomish County.

"We're putting security and preparedness first by taking this step," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "The County and cities have been working closely together to create a new emergency management department that can better respond to threats we face in the post-9/11 world."

"This is a strong new partnership that will pay security dividends for all our citizens."

Transition to the new Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management ("SCDEM"), which will plan for emergencies such as floods, earthquakes and terrorist attacks, will be complete on January 1, 2006.

The proposal to accept the transition plan transferring emergency management functions from the Department of Emergency Management ("DEM") to Snohomish County government was approved by a voice vote.

Executive Reardon said, "The new emergency management structure promises greater coordination of security functions, particularly with federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security."

The County's plan for the coming year will:

- Improve management and identify cost-savings by eliminating redundancies;
- Provide continuity of oversight and management for security and emergency response; and
- Maintain assessments now paid by member cities and towns at current levels.

“The new structure will maximize the County’s ability to attract federal Homeland Security dollars and manage additional grants,” Executive Reardon said.

In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf States region, it should be a reminder to all of us about the importance of emergency planning. “This is a heart wrenching example of why we need to be prepared on the local level,” Executive Reardon said. “You never know when or where a tragedy like this will strike. This change will aid in our preparedness.”

Executive Reardon noted that King County and Pierce County both manage their own emergency management functions.

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