

WA State Licensing Framework

- RCW 38.52.180 (6): No license is required for authorized emergency workers performing duties during an emergency
 - DOH's Emergency Preparedness and response and local health departments have been actively working on this approach
 - Liability protections for covered emergency workers included in statutory language in RCW 32.52.180
 - Local health departments have been working on signing up local health care licensees in the Medical Reserve Corps

WA State Licensing Framework

- RCW 38.10.010 Emergency management assistance compact
- Article V: Waives licensure for individuals going between participating jurisdictions
- **ARTICLE V : LICENSES AND PERMITS:** Whenever any person holds a license, certificate, or other permit issued by any state party to the compact evidencing the meeting of qualifications for professional, mechanical, or other skills, and when such assistance is requested by the receiving party state, such person shall be deemed licensed, certified, or permitted by the state requesting assistance to render aid involving such skill to meet a declared emergency or disaster, subject to such limitations and conditions as the governor of the requesting state may prescribe by executive order or otherwise.

WA State Licensing Framework

- Discussions on-going:
 - What specific regulatory requirements during an emergency or disaster would we ask the Governor to waive?
 - Examples: Facility requirements for temporary shelters to set up as “hospitals” during a major disaster.

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Disaster or Event Response

HSQA OCS would ensure all critical services are resumed immediately following a disastrous event. Credential Recovery Team leads would:

- Perform a timely assessment
- Determine resource needs
- Develop a recovery action plan
- Maintain communications with service providers
- Implement the recovery action plan to resume services.

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Disaster or Event Response

- An Assessment of the Event or Disaster:
 - Coordinating with individuals, other agencies, and health care facilities to identify the types of health professionals and facilities that are needed to adequately respond to the event.
 - Expediting applications for those identified professions.
 - Issuing temporary permits as needed
 - Granting license renewal extensions to providers impacted by the event or disaster.
- *EB 2351 authorizes healthcare providers to practice in Washington State on a limited, volunteer basis.

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Disaster or Event Response

- Determining Resource Needs
 - Based on the size of the event or disaster HSQA-OCS could:
 - Pull staff from other areas within HSQA to assist in tackling higher volumes of work. This is also a possibility if the home or lives of credentialing staff is affected by the event or disaster.

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Disaster or Event Response

- HSQA- OCS Response plans would also be case sensitive. For example, our response to an out of state disaster or event like Hurricane Katrina can include:
 - Utilizing the licensing system to assist affected states and agencies. Out of state licenses are verified at initial licensure in Washington and this data can easily be retrieved from the database.
 - Expediting verification requests from affected areas.
 - Expediting applications for health care providers called to assist in the affected areas.

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Disaster or Event Response

- A response to an in-state disaster that made the DOH Tumwater campus inaccessible or without services could include:
 - If web access was available limited staff members could work in an alternate location.
 - The public would be encouraged to use the department's online services.
 - If no web access is available we would issue full and temporary credentials using a spreadsheet to track the work.