HEALTHCARE FACILITY HUB | FACILITY READINESS FIELD SHEET

Pierce County Hospital Emergency Preparedness

96-Hour Self-Sufficiency, HVA Hazards, CMS Four-Part Rule & Utility Layer Summary

Pierce County Hospital Context: Facilities referenced on this page span **MultiCare** (Tacoma General, Mary Bridge Children's, Good Samaritan in Puyallup), **Virginia Mason Franciscan Health** (St. Joseph Medical Center), and federal anchor **Madigan Army Medical Center** (Joint Base Lewis-McChord).

1. PIERCE COUNTY HVA LOCAL HAZARDS

Under the federal Emergency Preparedness Rule all-hazards framework, Pierce County Hazard Vulnerability Analyses (HVAs) anchor on three linked realities:

- **Seismic (Cascadia & Crustal Faults):** Offshore Cascadia Subduction Zone plus Puget Sound lowland crustal faults (including the 2001 Nisqually earthquake). Requires non-structural readiness: anchored equipment, braced piping, ceiling systems, and protected medical gas and water lines.
- **Mount Rainier Lahar Pathways:** Inundation zones down the **Puyallup** and **Carbon** river valleys east of Tacoma (including Puyallup). Even hospitals outside the inundation line lose staff residences, supply routes, and mutual-aid partners across the river.
- **Arterial Corridor Disruption:** County healthcare depends on a small set of corridors — **I-5, SR-167, SR-512, and SR-410**. Closing two simultaneously forces concurrent staffing, supply, and patient-transfer disruptions.

2. CMS FOUR-PART RULE & GOVERNANCE

CMS Emergency Preparedness Conditions of Participation layer with **The Joint Commission** Emergency Management standards and **Washington Department of Health** licensing around four core elements:

- **1. Emergency Plan:** Built directly on the facility's documented HVA.
- **2. Policies & Procedures:** Written procedures that make the plan operable on shift.
- **3. Communications Plan:** Redundant protocols built to hold when normal systems fail.
- **4. Training & Testing Program:** Ongoing staff training including **two exercises per year**.

In practice, the HVA must be re-argued every year instead of simply re-filed.

3. UTILITY LAYER & 96-HOUR PLANNING HORIZON

96-Hour Horizon: Federal planning baseline expecting roughly **four days of self-sufficiency** cut off from outside resupply — governing fuel, water tankage, food service, and early curtailment of non-urgent services to protect core clinical care.

- **Emergency Power & Fuel:** Real runtime is set by **on-site fuel hours and vendor contracts**, not nameplate generator capacity. Contracts are tested when every hospital in the county calls the same fuel vendor at once. Separation of life-safety vs. convenience loads preserves critical hours.
- **Municipal Water Loss:** Directly interrupts **surgery, sterilization, dialysis, and plant cooling**. Emergency water planning shares the same operators and isolation valves as the routine water management program.

4. COALITION & MUTUAL AID (REGION 5)

Pierce County facilities do not weather major regional disruptions alone; resilience depends on **Pierce County healthcare coalition structures** and the **Washington State Region 5 network**:

- **Cross-Facility Operational Familiarity:** Knowing sister hospitals' loading dock configurations, engineering shop spare parts, and real **3 a.m. patient transfer capacity**.
- **Quiet-Year Relationship Building:** Mutual-aid reliability is established between plant operations teams during normal maintenance cycles before an arterial closure or seismic event hits.
- **Valley-Divided Supply Lines:** Shared planning accounts for staff and partners separated across river valleys and blocked corridors (I-5, SR-167, SR-512, SR-410).

5. THE QUIET WORK THAT DECIDES THE LOUD WEEK — FACILITY MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

[ ] Valves Exercised & Labeled	Exercise isolation valves routinely and label clearly before anyone needs them at midnight.	*Water / Med Gas*
[ ] Current As-Built Shutoff Maps	Verify shutoff maps match the building as it operates today — not original construction drawings.	*Plant / Utilities*
[ ] Generator Load Tests Matter	Run generator load tests rigorously; confirm life-safety vs. convenience load shedding and fuel hours.	*96-Hour Power*
[ ] Re-Argue HVA Every Year	Challenge assumptions annually (seismic bracing, lahar routes, corridor losses) rather than re-filing.	*CMS 4-Part / JC*