

KEY STEPS IN THE PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO NATURAL LARGE WOOD

Emergency Response First

- KCSO receives report from 911;
- Perform initial investigation and response, address emergencies - actions may include:
 - rescue operations,
 - minor wood repositioning,
 - river closure;
- Once stabilized, if safety concerns remain, KCSO contacts WLRD to coordinate follow-up inspections and action strategies.

Coordinated Investigation

- Field inspection by KCSO and WLRD;
- Assess and document site conditions and risk using *Wood Investigation Report*:
 - Flood risk to infrastructure or built environment;
 - Instream obstacle that may be a hazard to recreational users;
 - Habitat conditions associated with wood, as required for permits and mitigation, if needed.

Wood Investigation Report

Safety Considerations:

- Position, alignment and span of wood;
- River conditions;
- Types and seasonality of recreational use;
- Sight lines;
- Ingress and egress

Develop Action Strategy

WLRD and KCSO coordinate – develop course of action – can include no action

- Post signage;
- Press release & webpage updates;
- Moving or cutting a portion of the log;
- River closure;
- Logjam removal, relocation and mitigation.

Taking Action

- WLRD and KCSO jointly develop public information - press releases, webpage notices and signage;
- WLRD obtains permits and performs in-water construction work – KCSO provides life-safety assistance as needed;
- Only KCSO has authority to close the river, when necessary, for public safety.

Design Projects with Natural Wood Elements

- Many County projects are designed to mimic natural river systems - wood may naturally lodge within project areas;
- Wood is often beneficial to restoration goals, but may pose risks to people or infrastructure;
- *Instream Project Design Checklist* - design for safety – anticipate changes in river environment in vicinity of the project.

Adaptive Management at Project Sites

- Plan for life of the project;
 - *Public Safety Management Plans* will be developed for project sites to guide long term site management;
 - Regular monitoring at project sites;
 - Identify problems early, plan in place to guide remedial actions.
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Contact Information and Web Links

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www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/boating/rivers

www.kingcounty.gov/environment/watersheds/general-information/large-wood