

### Introduction

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.328, the Employment Security Department (Department) hereby describes its implementation plan for its rulemaking to permanently adopt the Department's emergency rules providing flexibility and relief to claimants and employers impacted by wildfires and other disasters.

### Plan to implement and enforce the rule

This rulemaking addresses the requirements for claimants impacted by a disaster relating to be able and available for work and to make satisfactory progress in their training to receive training benefits. These rules also address the circumstances when employers can receive relief of benefit charges for individuals who become unemployed due to a catastrophic occurrence.

Under the emergency rules, the Department continued to adjudicate claims and requests for relief of benefit charges without system updates. The Department may determine that UTAB and NGTS updates are needed in the future to implement these rules. If the Department elects to update its systems, the Department estimates that one Developer would need approximately 160 hours to implement system changes, for a cost of \$33,600. One ITSD BA Journey would need approximately 80 hours for discovery and requirement gathering, for a cost of \$6,787. Additionally, one to two MA3 User Acceptance Testers would need a total of approximately 160 hours at a cost of \$9,732. Thus, the total cost for updating the Department's systems is estimated to be \$50,119.

No enforcement plan is necessary, as the rules add flexibility, rather than additional requirements, for claimants and employers.

### Plan to inform and educate affected persons about the rule

The Department will share rules with stakeholder groups through the Department's online distribution lists.

### Plan to promote and assist voluntary compliance

The plan to promote and assist voluntary compliance will be identical to the plan to inform and educate affected persons about the rule.

### Plan to evaluate whether the rules achieve the purpose for which they were adopted

The Department will be able to evaluate whether the rules achieve their purpose by determining whether additional claims were filed, and additional requests for relief of benefit charges, were made at the time of a disaster, and whether those claimants were determined to be entitled to benefits and whether those employers were entitled to relief of benefit charges under the new rules.