



## **Preliminary Cost-Benefit Analysis Wildfires and Other Disasters**

### **Introduction**

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.328, the Employment Security Department (Department) hereby analyzes the costs and benefits of permanently adopting rules relating to benefit eligibility and benefit charging for claimants and employers impacted by disasters such as wildfires.

### **Costs**

Although the Department has not incurred costs as a result of the emergency rules, costs may be incurred to update the Department's claims and employer tax systems to reflect the permanent rule changes. 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. The total cost for updating the Department's systems is estimated to be \$50,119.

### **Benefits**

The purpose of this proposal is to permanently adopt the Department's emergency rules providing flexibility and relief to claimants and employers who are impacted by the wildfires and other disasters. These rules address the requirements that an unemployed individual be able and available for work and the requirement that individuals 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. This rulemaking benefits claimants and employers by accounting for impacts from disasters they may experience at no fault of their own.

### **Conclusion**

The benefits of the rule changes to claimants and employers outweigh the costs.