

INADVERTENT DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

Archaeological Materials Inadvertent Discovery Protocol

A cultural resource is an object, site, building, or structure that may be eligible for local, state, or national registers. A cultural resource discovery could be prehistoric or historic and is typically more than 50 years old. When in doubt, assume the material is a cultural resource. If any employee, contractor, or subcontractor believes that they have uncovered a cultural resource at any point in the project, all work must stop immediately in compliance with RCW 27.53. Leave the surrounding area untouched and provide a demarcation adequate to provide the total security, protection, and integrity of the discovery. Notify on-site project management and personnel of the work stoppage to ensure security of the discovery. Vehicles, equipment, and unauthorized personnel will not be permitted to traverse the discovery site. Work in the immediate area will not resume until treatment of the discovery has been completed.

Contacts

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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Local Government Archaeologist

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Human Skeletal Remains Inadvertent Discovery Protocol

In accordance with RCWs 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055, if ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of construction, then all activity will cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains. The area of the find will be secured and protected from further disturbance until the State provides notice to proceed. The finding of human skeletal remains will be reported to the county medical examiner/coroner and local law enforcement in the most expeditious manner possible. The remains will not be touched, moved, or further disturbed. The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic.

If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, then they will report that finding to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) who will then take jurisdiction over the remains. The DAHP will notify any appropriate cemeteries and all affected tribes of the find. The State Physical Anthropologist will make a determination of whether the remains are Indian or Non-Indian and report that finding to any appropriate cemeteries and the affected tribes. The DAHP will then handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation, and disposition of the remains."

Contacts

Pierce County Medical Examiner

253.798.6494

Pierce County Sherriff's Office

253.798.7530

State Physical Anthropologist

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