Critical-Hardware Air-Freight Diversion Playbook: Using SEA, BFI, and PAE

Pillar: Closure Playbook | **Basis:** Operational Playbook | **Primary Source:** Port of Seattle / King County / Paine Field | **As Of:** 2026-11-16

When highway or ocean corridors fail, valley space programs divert critical avionics, electronics, and oversized assemblies through Sea-Tac (SEA), Boeing Field (BFI), or Paine Field (PAE)—requiring pre-cleared brokers and last-mile plans.

Operational Continuity & Corridor Facts

• Sea-Tac (SEA) sits on high ground west of the valley and remains open to freighters even during Green River floods.

• Boeing Field (BFI) provides immediate charter proximity for Tukwila and Kent facilities, while Paine Field (PAE) supports heavy aerospace airlift north of Seattle.

• Even when air cargo lands safely at SEA or BFI, last-mile sprinter vans must avoid flooded Tukwila/Kent river crossings.

Three-Airport Air Diversion Selector

Cargo Type	Primary Airport	Last-Mile Risk to Kent
Avionics / Boards (<500 lbs)	Sea-Tac (SEA)	SR 518 / I-5 / SR 167 flood detours
Urgent Charter / Mid-Size	Boeing Field (BFI)	East Marginal Way / Tukwila crossings
Ultra-Large Aerospace	Paine Field (PAE)	I-5 / I-405 metro transit + OSOW curfews

Corridor Exposure, Triggers & Facility Actions

• Pre-establish Known Shipper / TSA Indirect Air Carrier accounts before an emergency so expedite shipments do not stall at screening.

• Ensure air-ride sprinter vans with U.S.-person drivers are on call for ITAR-controlled SEA/BFI pickups.

• Keep shock/tilt loggers on every air-diverted flight unit.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Tukwila WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/tukwila-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Seattle WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/seattle-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Marysville WA Space Cluster Profile:** https://bcesg.org/marysville-wa-space-cluster-profile/

• **Supply-Chain & Procurement Desk Brief:** https://bcesg.org/wa-space-role-procurement-lead-desk-brief/

• **Satellite Mfg Continuity Exposure:** https://bcesg.org/wa-satellite-manufacturing-continuity-exposure/

• **Port of Seattle SEA Air Cargo:** https://www.portseattle.org/sea/air-cargo

• **Paine Field (PAE) Airport:** https://www.painefield.com/

• **22 CFR Subchapter M (ITAR):** https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22/chapter-I/subchapter-M

Provenance Note: Grounded in Port of Seattle SEA volume (69% of WA air cargo) and BFI/PAE aerospace roles.