



EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

For immediate release

News release no. 2

Jan. 18, 2012 11:30 a.m.

Contact: Rob Harper

Phone: 800-688-8955 (*media only*)

Web addresses: www.emd.wa.gov and
www.wadisasternews.com

Twitter: @waEMD

Winter storm update – January 18, 11:30 a.m.

Camp Murray, Wash.—The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated to Phase III on Jan. 18, 12:00 a.m. in response to winter storm conditions throughout the state. State actions are coordinated through the State EOC, which is operated by the Washington Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department 24 hours a day. The EOC will be fully activated until further notice.

Counties, Cities, and Tribes activated

Counties: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, Thurston

Cities: Bellevue, Everett, Kent, Puyallup, Seattle, Tacoma

Tribes: Makah Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe

State agencies actively involved in response/support

Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State National Guard, Washington State Patrol, and Washington Department of Commerce/Energy.

Transportation

WSDOT and WSP are working to keep major state routes and interstates open.

Energy Outage Update

Scattered power outages have been reported in Grays Harbor and Clark County.

Check on Your Neighbors

With frosty temperatures hovering around the State, elderly and at-risk special needs populations are particularly at risk for hypothermia. Check on neighbors, family members, and at risk populations to ensure they are healthy, safe and doing well.

Carbon Monoxide, the dangers of...

Carbon Monoxide can be a real threat during a power outage. Learn what to look for and how to protect yourself: http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_infocus_winter2011.shtml

Insurance Coverage

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner has published a comprehensive question and answer sheet on Winter Weather Insurance Coverage. It can be found on the Commissioner's website at http://www.insurance.wa.gov/consumers/tips/winter_weather.shtml. The office has also set-up a consumer hotline number to report problems with insurance companies. The hotline number is 1-800-562-6900.

Preparedness Actions

- Residents should consider the following preparedness actions:
- Listen to radio or television stations for local information and weather reports.
- Do not use charcoal or gas grills to cook or heat indoors.
- If you must travel, assemble an emergency auto kit, stay on main roads, follow traffic instructions.
- If the power goes out, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep food frozen up to two days.
- Provide assistance to your neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled.

Calling 9-1-1

The State Enhanced 911 Office and local telephone carriers remind citizens in the affected area:

- To stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need to make a telephone call. Remember a FAX or a computer also uses a telephone line and its use may affect your ability to get immediate help in a life-threatening emergency.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unless you need an emergency response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel. DO NOT call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. 9-1-1 lines must be kept open for people who have a true emergency.
- If you experience other types of problems not related to these emergency services, call the appropriate telephone number for those services.
- If you pick up your telephone to make a call and do not hear dial tone, DO NOT HANG UP. Simply wait a few seconds, and you will get dial tone and be able to make your call.

####