



# EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

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## For immediate release

News release no. 3

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Web addresses: [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov) and  
[www.wadisasternews.com](http://www.wadisasternews.com)

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## Winter storm update – January 19, 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.

**Governor Emergency Proclamation: has been signed and is available at**  
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=1838&newsType=1>

### Counties, Cities, and Tribes activated

Counties: Grays Harbor, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston

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

Tribes: 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.

### Road Closures

- Drivers should check their route at: <http://wsdot.com/traffic/trafficalerts/default.aspx>. WSDOT will update this website as conditions change.
- Updated travel information is also available by calling 5-1-1.
- There are significant ice concerns on SR 14 in the Gorge and travel is extremely dangerous.

## **Weather**

- The area from about Seattle southward to about Centralia is a concern for freezing rain and snow mixed through about mid afternoon.
- Winter Storm warning is in effect for western Snohomish County.
- Areas in the central Gorge area eastward to Walla Walla up into the Spokane area and across to about Ellensburg have the potential of mixed freezing rain and snow.
- Spokane could see snowfall totals in the 2-3" range.
- Mountain passes should see moderate snow increasing this morning, then decreasing late in the day evening

## **Flood Status/Landslide and Debris Flow Update**

A Flood Watch (potential for flooding) is in effect through Friday morning for rivers and creeks in Southwest Washington based on the current forecasts. All around Western Washington generally, warmer and wetter weather into next week will increase the chance of flooding.

The combination of heavy rain and snowmelt will increase the potential for landslides, especially in drainage areas. Structures and roads located below steep slopes may be at serious risk from rapidly moving landslides.

## **Energy Outage Update**

Local utility providers are working to restore power to the approximately 150,000 customers still without power. Continued snow and freezing rain could add significant weight to tree branches and may cause new outages.

## **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](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](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:

- Provide assistance to your neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled.
- Listen to radio or television stations for local information and weather reports.
- While walking - watch for ice patches and slippery areas.
- Be careful when shoveling snow. Do not overexert yourself.
- If practical remove heavy snowfall from shallow sloped and flat roofs.
- Watch for falling trees and limbs. Branches can be hazardous to pedestrians too.
- Stay at least 30 feet away from downed power lines. Never attempt to move or walk under a downed power line. Avoid trees and branches that are in contact with the power line. If you are in a car when a power line falls on it, stay in the car and call 9-1-1.
- If the power goes out, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep food frozen up to two days.
- Don't forget the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning—don't use generators, barbecues or kerosene heaters indoors.
- Stay home if you can. Less traffic makes clearing roads easier for state and local crews. Less traffic will reduce the number of spin-outs and accidents.
- If you must travel, assemble an emergency auto kit, stay on main roads, and follow traffic instructions. Make sure someone knows where you are going.
- If your car gets stuck—don't leave it. You're more likely to be found if you stay with your vehicle.

## **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.

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