



## 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. 8

Jan. 23, 2012, 5 p.m.

Contact: Rob Harper

Phone: 253-512-7005 (*media only*)

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

Twitter: @waEMD

## State EOC Reduces Activation Level for Winter Storm Emergency

**Camp Murray, Wash.**—The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) reduced its activation level to Phase II at 5 p.m. today and began efforts to recover from the January winter storm emergency. The EOC activated at a Phase III level at 12 a.m. on Jan. 18 in response to winter storm conditions throughout the state.

### Damage Assessment

The Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD) began Monday to work with local jurisdictions to assess damages to public facilities, homes and businesses. Conference calls and meetings will be conducted to assist counties in assessing winter storm damages and reporting them to WEMD.

### 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.

### Weather

After a brief let up in precipitation today, more rain is expected Tuesday through Thursday, mainly in the southern half of Western Washington. The following are watches and warnings as of 3:15 p.m. today:

- High Wind Watch through Tuesday for the Washington coast and Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan counties.
- Winter Storm and Avalanche Watches for the Cascade Mountains.
- A Flood Watch from Tuesday evening through Thursday evening for Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pierce and Thurston counties. The only flood prediction was for the Skokomish River --- which was forecast to have minor flooding,

## **Landslide and Debris Flow Update**

Four West Lake Sammamish Parkway homes were damaged by a mudslide Sunday. No injuries reported. The road is closed indefinitely.

## **Energy Outage Update; 4 p.m.**

The hardest hit counties are Thurston, Pierce, King and Snohomish. As of 4 p.m. Monday, there were 41,924 customers without power. Restoration could continue into the week especially if additional damage is sustained. On Monday, 280 power line crews, along with crew coordinators and damage assessors were in Thurston, Pierce and King counties making repairs and restoring power. Approximately 90 percent of PSE's customer outages from the past week are now back on line.

If PSE customers discover damage to their weatherhead, the pole-like structure where the electrical service enters the home, PSE cannot legally restore power until the damage has been repaired by a licensed technician. See link below for weatherhead graphic.

<http://pse.com/accountsandservices/ServiceAlert/Pages/Real-time-Updates.aspx>

For current information on PSE power restoration:

<http://pse.com/accountsandservices/ServiceAlert/Pages/SAM.aspx>

## **Report Damages**

Residents who sustained damages to their homes or businesses due to the winter storm are encouraged to report their damages to their local Emergency Management office. This information helps in the overall damage assessment and is used to justify a request for federal assistance programs to support disaster recovery. The following are links for damage assessment information for Thurston and Pierce counties:

Thurston County - <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/>

Pierce County - <http://blog.piercetywa.org/emergency/2012/01/20/report-damages-by-calling-866-798-6363/>

## **Preparedness Actions**

Residents should consider the following:

- **Provide assistance to your neighbors**, especially the elderly or disabled by helping with debris removal, and clearing of driveways and sidewalks. Activate your Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program. <http://www.emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml>
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning danger**: don't use generators, barbeques or kerosene heaters indoors. [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/videos/video\\_carbonmonoxide.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/videos/video_carbonmonoxide.shtml) and
- **Use generators safely**: [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/videos/video\\_generatorsafety.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/videos/video_generatorsafety.shtml)
- **Downed power lines**: Stay at least 30 feet away from. 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. [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/videos/video\\_downed\\_power\\_line\\_safety.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/videos/video_downed_power_line_safety.shtml)
- **Food safety**: If the power goes out, keep refrigerator/freezer doors closed; keeps food frozen up to two days. [http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep\\_foodsafety.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_foodsafety.shtml)

---

## **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.

# # # #