



EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

For immediate release

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State Flood Update

CAMP MURRAY -- The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray is monitoring flood levels and weather conditions, and standing by to support the flood fighting efforts of local jurisdictions. Also working in the EOC are representatives from state and federal agencies, including the Washington National Guard; Washington State Patrol; state departments of Military, Agriculture, Transportation, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources and Ecology; the American Red Cross; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and U.S. Coast Guard.

State activities

Gov. Chris Gregoire's Nov. 6 emergency proclamation provided a focal point for state agency support of Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, Kitsap, Grays Harbor, Thurston, Okanogan, Pierce, King, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Lewis, Pacific, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Clark and Chelan counties.

- In particular, Skagit County evacuation and traffic control will be assisted by more than 40 State Patrol troopers on Tuesday,
- Skagit County will also be supported with trucks, wreckers, helicopters and 57 soliders, courtesy of the Washington National Guard.
- The State EOC has provided more than 95,000 sandbags for flood fight operations (see below).
- The state Department of Transportation is clearing drains and removing floodwater debris from bridge piers, in addition to working road closures all over Western Washington.

SAND BAGS			
As of 4 a.m., Nov. 7, 2006			
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Delivery</i>	<i>Bags</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Pierce County	Complete	20,000	Completed Monday, Nov. 6
Pierce County	Complete	20,000	Pierce County Public Works picked up from State EOC at Camp Murray Monday night.
Mason County	Complete	100	Delivered to Mason County General Hospital
Snohomish County	Complete	40,000	State Department of General Administration delivered to Stanwood High School (20k) and Fire Station 43 (20k).
Hoh Tribe	In process	5,000	Mason County assisting with delivery.
Pacific County	In process	10,000	Mason and Cowlitz counties assisting with delivery.
<i>Sand bags delivered</i> —		61,100	
<i>Sand bags in process of delivery</i> —		35,000	
Total sand bags obligated —		95,100	

November 7, 2006

Weather

Good news, according to the National Weather Service: the Pineapple Express will move south and east Tuesday, Nov. 7, although that movement will be slow, making for continued rainfall from Olympia south. A convergence zone that may develop in Puget Sound Tuesday afternoon would result in more persistent showers over North King and South Snohomish counties. The shifting Pineapple Express may also bring cooler air, lowering snow levels down to about 5,000 feet by Tuesday evening. Wednesday, showers should continue decreasing, and Thursday is potentially dry. Friday, an approaching warm front will increase chances of rain into Saturday.

Counties

Skagit County officials are taking numerous actions in response to the Skagit River's expected crest at Concrete on Tuesday: 40.5 feet, which is 12.5 feet over flood stage.

- Skagit County is evacuating the lower areas of Concrete and the towns of Hamilton, Cape Horn, Sedro Woolley, Rockport, Crawford, Cockreham Island, East Rockport, Shangri La, Cedar Crest Burlington and Marblemount.
- Skagit County is recommending schools in the Skagit Valley to be closed Tuesday. This does not include schools on Fidalgo Island.
- The American Red Cross has four shelters open at the Baptist Church in Hamilton, Limestone Catholic Church in Concrete, Marblemount Community Center and Sedro-Woolley High School.

Pierce County asked residents living in low lying areas along the Puyallup River to evacuate Monday night with a flood crest and high tide expected to force waters over local levees. Fortunately, that did not happen, and residents of Orting, Sumner, Puyallup and unincorporated areas along the river will be returning home soon, if they have not done so already.

Snohomish County reported Monday evacuations in the Robe Valley area, and is monitoring conditions in Index.

King County reported several levees in the North Bend area overflowed Monday night. People were warned to evacuate and several shelters have been opened. There was also minor flooding in Kent. King County is working with polling precincts to let people know which ones will be open for voting Tuesday.

Whatcom County will be cleaning up and reopening roads Tuesday, as the flood warning was cancelled for the Nooksack River in the early morning hours.

State highway closures

For current information from the Washington State Department of Transportation, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/Weather/updates

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