



# 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. 9

November 8, 2006 • 5:00 p.m.

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## State Flood Update

**CAMP MURRAY** -- The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray continues to monitor flood levels and weather conditions and to support the flood fighting efforts of local jurisdictions. Working in the EOC are representatives from a number of state and federal agencies, including the Washington National Guard; state departments of Military, Agriculture, Transportation; the American Red Cross; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and U.S. Coast Guard. Other state and federal agencies are on-call to support the emergency operations center, if needed.

Gov. Chris Gregoire on Nov. 6 proclaimed a state of emergency to facilitate state assistance to the following counties: Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom, and Wahkiakum counties. Twenty-one cities and counties have proclaimed states of emergency as of mid-morning.

### **What should homeowners, business owners do now?**

Counties affected by this week's floods already are collecting damage information from homeowners and small business owners. Phone numbers for people to call will be announced by local jurisdictions.

Information that individuals should report includes the following:

- Name and address of affected property.
- A description of damage, even if it is insured.
- A personal estimate of uninsured losses.
- Estimates of the fair market value of the damaged home or business.

This information will be forwarded to the State Emergency Management Division, which will perform a formal damage assessment in partnership with FEMA in the coming days. The findings from this second assessment will be used by the Governor to request a disaster declaration and federal disaster assistance from the President. This process could take up to couple of weeks or more. Federal disaster assistance, if and when it becomes available, only covers uninsured losses.

Among the immediate steps that individuals and families impacted by the floods should take, include:

- Notifying the American Red Cross chapter in your community if you need housing, food, etc.
- Calling your insurance agent to check on your coverage.
- Keeping detailed records of all clean-up and repair costs, including photographs.

A detailed list of steps that affected individuals should take to clean up their home or business and document damage is available from the state's disaster news web site, <http://www.wadisasternews.com/go/doctype/1105/13013/>, or by contacting local emergency management offices or health departments.

Special note for owners and residents of manufactured homes: Individuals with manufactured homes have special steps they should take to check for and repair flood damage. Immediately upon returning home, residents should remove the rodent barrier and insulation from under the structure. This will allow the floor to dry out and minimize damage and warping. Warped floors often cannot be repaired. The Department of Labor and Industries has a checklist with more tips for manufactured home owners; it can be found on the department's web site at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/FAS/default.asp>.

## **State, local activities**

The Washington State Department of Transportation continues to report closures of state highways. The most current list can be found on the department's web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/weather/updates/>. Amtrak Cascades trains between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. also have delays and cancellations. Call 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit [www.AmtrakCascades.com](http://www.AmtrakCascades.com) for the latest information.

**Snohomish County** as of mid-day reports the French Slough dike and Marshland dike were overtopped by floodwaters. The Index Bridge is closed. Two homes were lost earlier today at Green Meadow on the Skykomish River with two more homes in danger. More than 420 houses and mobile homes have sustained damage in the flooding over the past few days, according to the American Red Cross. The Three Rivers Mobile Home Park is surrounded by water, with all but two residents evacuated. The Evergreen State Fair Grounds reports 145 horses, 9 goats, 8 cows, 3 zebras, and 2 reindeer and 21 birds sheltered at the facility. Schools remain closed in the Index and Snohomish school districts, as well as Stanwood and Lincoln Hill high schools. Major flooding continues along the Snohomish River, with levels not expected to fall below flood stage in Monroe until late Thursday and in Snohomish until Friday morning.

**King County** is collecting preliminary damage assessments for primary residences and businesses beginning today. The citizen hotline phone number for King County is 800-523-5044. These phone lines will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The City of Seattle also is collecting damage information; citizens can call 206-386-1800. Flooding continues to be a problem in the Snoqualmie Valley as the Snoqualmie River will remain above flood stage in Carnation until this evening. Water releases from dams will keep flows high in the Cedar and Green Rivers, and caused moderate flooding this afternoon along the White River.

**Lewis County** as of mid-day reports the dike on High Valley in Packwood was lost as the river returned to its old channel, destroying two homes and endangering several more. A Coast Guard

helicopter from Port Angeles rescued six people Tuesday afternoon. A number of hunters remain missing, and between 200 and 300 people who live near Randle have been evacuated from their homes. The Cowlitz River at Randle is expected to fall below flood stage this afternoon, with minor flooding below the Mayfield Dam is expected to continue today. Minor flooding also is expected to continue in the Centralia area from the Chehalis River.

**Pierce County:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers increased the release of water from Mud Mountain Dam into the White River to 11,900 cubic feet per second this afternoon. At a level of 12,000 cfs, significant over-bank flooding is likely to occur, possibly inundating areas of SR 410 and Sumner. Area residents may experience dangerous high velocities and debris flow.

**Skagit County** has begun requesting damage information from home and business owners. People can call 360-428-3260 to report damage. The county continues to experience flooding along the Skagit River, with the river slowly receding. Flood levels in Concrete are projected to fall below flood stage this afternoon and in Mount Vernon are projected to fall below flood stage tonight.

**Chelan County** reports flooding on local rivers and streams has crested and dropping below flood stage. Initial damage assessments began today. Individuals that have sustained damage are encouraged to report their damage at the county's website, [www.chelandem.org](http://www.chelandem.org), or by calling the Sheriff's Office at 509-667-6863.

**Clark County** is soliciting damage reports from home and business owners; they can call 360-992-9229 to report damages from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or leave a message after hours at 360-737-1911, ext 3948.

**Whatcom County** is requesting residents and business that experienced flood damage to report it to the county's emergency management division at (360) 676-6681.

**Hoh Indian Tribe** has proclaimed a state of emergency for its reservation on the Olympic Peninsula.

**Cowlitz County** reports a boil-water order is in place for some Toutle community water system customers; damage to a water line east of Castle Rock earlier in the week reduced available water in reservoirs.

**Grays Harbor County** is requesting individuals to report flood-related damage using a form on the county's web site at <http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/DEM/EMD140.htm>.

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