



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 - Corrected

CAMP MURRAY -- The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray while continuing to monitor flood levels and weather conditions and to support the flood fighting efforts of local jurisdictions focus is shifting its focus to recovery planning. Gov. Chris Gregoire issued on Nov. 6 a state of emergency proclamation for 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 now proclaimed states of emergency.

Recent updates on local activities

Washington State Department of Transportation: The deluge of rain and high water caused closures on sections of nearly 20 state highways in Western Washington. WSDOT crews of more than 700 have been battling the water non-stop since early Monday morning. For general traveler information, visit the WSDOT [statewide traveler information](#) web site. Traffic and weather information is also available by dialing 5-1-1 from most phones.

Washington National Guard: All servicemen deployed to support flood fighting efforts have returned to home stations with the exception of two Army National Guard helicopters routed to Lewis County to aid in search and rescue operations for stranded hunters. A US Navy helicopter with hoist capability and a fixed-wing Civil Air Patrol aircraft will also support this rescue effort.

American Red Cross reports that the 10 shelters located in Cowlitz, King, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit and Snohomish counties housed 250 people overnight and provided 1,099 meals and 471 snacks yesterday to flood victims. The Cowlitz county shelter closed this morning.

Pierce County is still addressing flooding problems in parts of Orting, Sumner and eastern parts of the county near the White River. The EOC will be collecting damage information from homeowners and business owners affected by this week's heavy rains and subsequent floods. Residents and business owners in Pierce County that suffered flood damage should call the Department of Emergency Management at 1-866-798-6363 (toll free) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The call center will be open this weekend.

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King County is focusing on debris management and recovery efforts. The King County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) is collecting preliminary damage assessments to primary residences and businesses beginning today. KCOEM will collect damage information countywide. Two shelters remain open in Kent and Issaquah. The City of Snoqualmie set up two debris sites and additional dumpsters for debris collection. The citizen hotline phone number for King County is 800-523-5044. These phone lines are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

River flows are now decreasing on King County rivers, but flood warnings remain in effect for Snoqualmie, Cedar, Green, White and Snoqualmie rivers. Current road closure information can be found at <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/roadalert/>

Lewis County. State and federal agencies are rescuing hunters and hikers stranded by flooding in Lewis County. Since the floods began, 17 people have been rescued by air operations. An estimated additional 25-50 others are potentially stranded. The Washington State Department of Transportation's Aviation Division is coordinating efforts with the U.S. Navy, Washington Army National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol. Helicopters resumed search operations at 8 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, to observe the Packwood area, weather permitting. Many families in Packwood and Randle are sheltered-in-place or currently awaiting rescue or water to recede.

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