



FEMA

Disaster News

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Vancouver Disaster Recovery Center Operates For One Week – Closing Saturday, Jan. 13

LACEY, WASH. - The state and federal Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Clark Public Utilities Education Building, 8600 NE 117th Avenue, Vancouver, will cease operation at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 13, and it will not reopen, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials said.

“The operational period for a DRC is determined, in part, by the number of applicant visitors it serves,” said Sarah Mahlik, DRC group supervisor. “A modest amount of activity at a DRC may indicate applicant questions are being addressed through the FEMA Helpline or by visits to another DRC or their recovery issues don’t require face-to-face discussions.”

The Vancouver DRC representatives, including program specialists from FEMA, State, voluntary agencies and customer service representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), will return to the Cowlitz County DRC at the Kelso Train Depot, 501 S. 1st Street, Kelso on Monday, Jan. 15.

Like centers in Granite Falls, Issaquah, Kelso, Monroe, Packwood and Puyallup, the Vancouver DRC serves individuals and business owners who suffered damages from the Nov. 2-11 flooding. DRCs operate Monday through Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., until further notice.

While the DRC offers a valuable opportunity for applicants who have questions about their disaster recovery, it is not necessary to come to a DRC to register for FEMA assistance. The assistance process begins with a telephone call to FEMA’s toll-free registration number – **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or TTY 1-800-463-7585 for persons who are speech or hearing impaired. That same toll-free registration number can be used to access the FEMA Helpline for applicants who have claims questions.

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SBA representatives are at the remaining DRCs listed below and will continue to meet individually with each applicant to provide assistance in completing their disaster loan application, answer any questions about SBA's disaster loan program, and accept completed disaster loan applications. For the hours of operation, call the SBA Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955. Anyone not able to go to a DRC should call this number for SBA information and assistance or visit the SBA website at www.sba.gov

The six remaining DRCs are located at:

<u>Cowlitz County</u> Kelso Train Depot 501 S. 1st Street Kelso, Wash.	<u>Lewis County</u> Packwood Elementary School 12990 Highway 12 Packwood, Wash.	<u>King County</u> Issaquah City Hall–Eagle Rm 130 East Sunset Way Issaquah, Wash.
<u>Pierce County</u> MicrochipTechnology Campus 1111 39th Avenue SE Building A, First Floor Puyallup, Wash.	<u>Snohomish County</u> Evergreen State Fairground 14405 179th Avenue SE Building 501 Monroe, Wash.	<u>Snohomish County</u> American Legion Hall 301 S. Granite Avenue Granite Falls, Wash.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national disaster or emergency incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with State and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or any other bias. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal Rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

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