



**FEMA**

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# Disaster News

## Sitting High and Dry

**LACEY, WASH.-** During the November 2-11 flooding, the Snoqualmie River breached its banks and poured floodwaters of up to five feet onto Acacia Farm. Even though it took days for the floodwaters to recede, the owners of Acacia Farm were able to ride out the flood in the safety and comfort of their house.

The house had flooded repeatedly in the past, most recently in the 1996 flood. “There were some big floods in 1996,” said Geary Eppley, current owner of Acacia Farm. “That was when the previous owners were buying the property. They decided that before they moved in, they would raise the house.”

Not only did the previous owners move the 1920s farmhouse to higher ground, they built a foundation that included space for a two-car garage and storage space, raising the house eight feet. They also installed electrical fixtures and switches in the ceiling to prevent exposure to water, which paid off in this year’s flood. According to Geary Eppley, “We have internal stairs that look down into the garage and I could just get my head down there because there was only about a foot and a half between the water and the garage ceiling.”

The Eppleys prepared for the flood by relocating their livestock and moving their vehicles. They knew the property had flooded in the past, but they were sure their house would weather the storm. “The house being raised and fully remodeled gave us the confidence that we would be able to get through it,” Eppley said. “Cleaning up after each flood is always a chore, but thanks to the elevation at least we don’t have to do any major repairs.”

Hazard mitigation measures, like house elevation and flood insurance, combine to protect homeowners from the effects of flooding. Washington residents or businesses that had losses or damages from the Nov. 2-11 flooding, and have flood insurance under FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), may qualify for Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage.

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If a house is substantially damaged by flooding, ICC coverage of up to \$30,000 may help pay for some types of retrofitting, such as elevation or relocating. ICC coverage can be combined with low-interest Small Business Administration loans, disaster and mitigation assistance grants or other Federal funds to help build a safer future for you and your family.

Washington residents or businesses that had losses or damages from the Nov. 2-11 flooding can register for assistance by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the speech or hearing impaired, or registering on line at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

*FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national 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 retaliation. 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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