



FEMA

Legislative Newsletter

March 14, 2007

FEMA/EMD Joint Field Office, 629 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503

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Skamania County Declaration Requested

On March 7, 2007, Governor Gregoire requested a Federal Emergency Declaration from the President for the landslide near the town of Stevenson, in Skamania County, WA.

In January, 2007 a slide began on a hillside overlooking Rock Creek. The slide could deposit over one million cubic yards of soil into the creek channel. Two families have evacuated from their homes. Twenty-one other homes above and below the slide are at risk, as well as a bridge and other public infrastructure downstream.

The Skamania County Council declared a local emergency on February 5, 2007. To protect transportation, a sewage treatment facility, and other utilities, the County has removed material from the creek and built temporary earthen berms to protect the public facilities.

The federal emergency declaration would make individuals eligible for assistance. County and local governments would be eligible to claim costs for emergency protective measures, as well seek technical and advisory assistance and debris removal.

Disaster Loans Available for San Juan County

San Juan County – In response to Governor Gregoire’s March 7, 2007 request, The Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared an Economic Injury Disaster for businesses in San Juan County impacted by the November 26 – December 4, 2006 winter storm.

To be eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, at least five businesses must have substantial economic losses due to the disaster that cannot be recovered from other sources. Businesses may borrow up to \$1.5 million for fixed debts, payroll, and other bills.

The request was approved on March 12, 2007. The application deadline is December 12, 2007.

**For more information, contact: (1-800-659-2955)
Hearing impaired individuals: (1-800 877-8339)**

The Joint Field Office (JFO) is a federal facility established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Washington Military Department (WMD) Emergency Management Division (EMD) to administer federal and state relief after a disaster is declared.

Recreational Vehicle Donations

The Emergency Management Division and local non-profit organizations have asked residents to donate Recreational Vehicles (RVs) to provide homes for disaster-stricken residents. The storms of late 2006 and early 2007 destroyed RVs that were primary residences for a number of Washington families. Not eligible for federal disaster assistance, they have no means to restore or replace their homes.

So far, five RVs have been generously donated by Washingtonians to families in Thurston, Lewis, and Skagit Counties. More vehicles are being donated and more are needed. Donors are eligible for a tax write-off for donating the vehicle. For more information please call Toney Raines (1-253-426-2745).

December Storm Update

Assistance is available to state agencies, local governments, and certain nonprofits in 19 Washington counties for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged during the severe storms of December 14-15, 2006. Applicant briefings will be completed by March 14, 2007. The deadline to file Requests for Public Assistance is March 16, 2007.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is also available for all state and local governments. HMGP is being outlined at applicant briefings, and all State Agencies, Counties, Cities, Tribal, and other local governments are being made aware of their eligibility. Letters of Intent are due April 30, 2007. For more information, please email Mark Stewart at: m.stewart@emd.wa.gov

Disaster Legal Services Closes March 16, 2007

Free legal service has been available since December, 2006 for Washington residents who suffered damage from the November 2-11, 2006 storms and floods. The service provides consultation on insurance claims, replacing legal documents, consumer protection, mortgage issues, and other assistance.

The toll-free hotline (1-866-434-8939) will shut down, and no new clients will be taken after March 16, 2007.

Libby Turner, Federal Coordinating Officer,
FEMA

Kurt Hardin, State Coordinating Officer, Governor’s Authorized
Representative, WMD/EMD

**For more information regarding the JFO, contact Matt Stoutenburg, Legislative Coordinator
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