



EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

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Contact: Mark Clemens

Phone: 800-688-8955 (*media only*)

Web address: www.wadisasternews.com

State Flood Update

Camp Murray, Wash. – The Washington State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains fully operational today as local, state and federal agencies continue recovery efforts. The EOC has received 151 requests for support, including fuel, water, generators, vehicles, sandbags, food, sanitation supplies, staff and rescues for stranded residents.

Federal Disaster Assistance

Governor Gregoire, U.S. Congressman Norm Dicks, U.S. Senators Patti Murray and Maria Cantwell, and state and federal officials went on a damage observation flight and visited Chehalis and Elma Saturday. Even while that tour was underway, President Bush signed a major disaster declaration Saturday for six counties in Washington—Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston. The declaration will provide those counties with Public Assistance (PA), that is, assistance for repairing government infrastructure, in this case, for debris removal and emergency protective measures. The declaration also provides direct federal assistance for continuing response support and authorizes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for this disaster. More PA programs and more counties may be added the declaration as further damage assessments come in. Saturday's Presidential declaration came in response to Gov. Gregoire's Dec. 7 request for Public Assistance, an amendment to her Dec. 6 request for Individual Assistance (IA) in Lewis and Grays Harbor counties. IA is assistance for individuals and businesses. IA relief programs—as well as more counties for IA—may be added to the declaration pending the results of a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) of devastated areas in Lewis and Grays Harbor counties being conducted this weekend by teams of county, state and federal officials.

State Assistance

Gov. Gregoire announced Saturday that \$300,000 in emergency assistance from the Governor's emergency fund will be made available to people affected by this week's storm and flooding. The governor is providing the funds to assist families with their basic needs while her request for the federal government's Individual Assistance (IA) programs awaits approval. Residents of the affected counties wanting information or needing to apply for assistance should call the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for help at 877-980-9180. Residents may also visit their local DSHS community services office beginning Monday, Dec. 10.

Weather

Nighttime temperatures may drop into the low 20s for the next three days, increasing the need for heating fuel (wood and gas) and other cold weather requirements.

Energy

Grays Harbor County has approximately 3,000 customers without power. Power was restored to Ocean Shores overnight Friday, and north to Pacific Beach and Moclips by Saturday afternoon. There was still power to be restored further north in the Quinault Indian Nation and Amanda Park. Back to the south, power was restored to Westport and Grayland Saturday, and close to being restored in the area around Tokeland and the Shoalwater Bay reservation. Restoring power to individual homes and buildings in scattered areas will last into the coming week. Most of remaining 24 outages in **Lewis County** will be restored after the state Department of Transportation has cleared a landslide near Pe Ell. **Mason County** still has five customers without power. Approximately 650 **Pacific County** residents were still without power Saturday, but restorations will bring that number down to scattered cases soon, some of which may require private electricians. The state Department of Transportation cleared a landslide near the bridge to Astoria, allowing power to be restored in that area.

Shelters

Thursday night, 96 evacuees were housed in American Red Cross and community shelters, down from 143 the night before. Sunday, the Red Cross will open a service center to provide comprehensive services at Bethel Church at 132 Kirlam Road in Chehalis. Meanwhile, people with immediate food, housing and other essential needs should contact the American Red Cross at 1-866-Get Info. People seeking shelter should contact their county emergency management office for active locations.

Currently, eight shelters are open in three counties:

Grays Harbor County

- Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, 32 Elma-McCleary Road, Elma
- Galilean Lutheran Church, 824 Ocean Shores Blvd, Ocean Shores
- Union Gospel Mission, 405 E. Heron Street, Aberdeen

Lewis County

- Westminster Presbyterian Church, 349 North Market Blvd, Chehalis
- Centralia LDS Church, Mt. Vista Road, Centralia
- Centralia National Guard Armory, 309 Byrd Street, Centralia

Pacific County

- Long Beach LDS Church, 1306 N. Washington, Long Beach
- South Bend Elementary School, 401 Eastwater, South Bend

Relief Efforts

Primary efforts are centered on assisting local jurisdictions. The **Washington Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (WAVOARD)** assisted clean-up efforts in the Lewis County communities of Pe Ell, Boistfort, Doty and Curtis Saturday with help from 200 LDS Church volunteers. Clean-up of all four communities was accomplished in six-and-a-half hours. Also, WAVOARD is working to procure 1,500 additional blankets needed in the disaster area; has arranged to have eight pallets of food trucked to a Raymond food bank Saturday; and is seeking ways to provide 8-10 cords of dry firewood to be delivered to the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds.

Public Health and Safety

While carbon monoxide poisoning remains a concern for those who still do not have power, no new incidents of poisoning were reported following a chilly Friday night. The Department of Health (DOH) urges state agencies and local emergency responders to continue warning people about the dangers of

carbon monoxide poisoning. Grays Harbor and Mason counties will be opening clinics this coming week to administer Hepatitis A and Tetanus vaccines.

Water

The state Department of Health reports 11 water systems affecting 2,819 people are currently shut down, and 10 water systems serving 10,657 people are on boiled water advisories. Four systems affecting 6,450 people have had service restored. For questions about drinking water safety and systems, please contact 1-800-521-0323.

Agriculture

The state departments of Health, Agriculture and Ecology are assisting Lewis and Thurston counties with the healthy disposal of animal carcasses. Transfer locations have been designated in Lewis County for both large and small carcasses, and transport containers are in place. Thurston County will also deliver carcasses to the Lewis County site. The total number and types of animal deaths is unknown. Operations are scheduled to begin Sunday. Food safety officers from the Department of Agriculture are assessing damages and needs and providing technical assistance to dairy farms, egg-handlers, custom meat facilities, food storage warehouses and seafood processors in the disaster area.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has provided equipment including three potable water trucks, a command post and 13 generators to support the Quinault Indian Nation in Taholah. DNR also sent eight wildland fire engines to join in Saturday clean-up efforts in Lewis County.

National Guard Support

The Washington National Guard has 380 personnel on duty for the disaster, including liaisons and Rapid Reaction Teams in Grays Harbor and Lewis counties. Saturday, the Guard transported 240 blankets from Nalley Valley in Tacoma to Grays Harbor County in addition to coordinating the flyover and visit to Lewis and Grays Harbor counties by Gov. Gregoire and the state's congressional delegation. The Guard is also providing high-water vehicles in support of Preliminary Damage Assessment teams surveying devastated areas of Lewis and Grays Harbor counties this weekend.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Gov. Gregoire announced Saturday that \$300,000 in state emergency assistance will be made available to people affected by this week's storm and flooding. Residents of the affected counties wanting information or needing to apply for assistance should call the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for help at 877-980-9180. Residents may also visit their local DSHS community services office beginning Monday, Dec. 10.

Hazardous Material Response and Other Post-Flood Issues

A flyover by the Department of Ecology identified areas with hazardous materials containers left behind by floodwaters, including five propane tanks, 15 surfaced underground tanks, 30 55-gallon drums, 30 compressed gas cylinders and 30 five-gallon containers. Mostly inaccessible areas, these items are earmarked for removal when floodwaters recede. Ecology is working with local jurisdictions to identify staging locations for drums, tanks and hazmat containers which will allow safe sampling, analysis consideration and disposal.

Transportation

- I-5 through the Chehalis vicinity reopened Friday.
- Highway 101 is closed between milepost 340 and the town of Quilcene.
- Highway 6 is closed between mileposts 24 and 27.
- State Route 96 has a 40-foot hole from a culvert washout at milepost 4 and is projected to be closed approximately four weeks.

River Status

All rivers are now below flood stage and continue to recede.

Fatalities

Six fatalities are attributed to this week's storm and flooding: two in Grays Harbor County, two in King County, one in Mason County and one in Pacific County.

Activation status

- State EOC continues full Phase III activation.
- Local emergency operations centers remain activated in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties; the city of Centralia; and Quinault Indian Nation.

Agency involvement

The following agencies and entities are represented at, or coordinating with, the State EOC. **State:** The state departments of Military; Agriculture; Community, Trade and Economic Development; Ecology; Fish and Wildlife; General Administration; Health; Natural Resources; Parks and Recreation; Social and Health Services; Transportation; Utilities and Transportation Commission; and Washington State Patrol; **Federal:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and U.S. Coast Guard. **Non-Governmental Organizations:** American Red Cross; Washington Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (WAVOAD); WIN 2-1-1 and ARES/RACES (amateur radio).

Declarations and proclamations

- Governor's Emergency Proclamation completed Monday, Dec. 3, 2007.
- Local Emergency Declarations: Grays Harbor County; King County; Kitsap County; Lewis County; Mason County; Pacific County; Pierce County; Snohomish County; Thurston County; Wahkiakum County; Whatcom County; City of Bothell; City of Kirkland; Makah Tribe; and Quinault Indian Nation.
- Federal Major Disaster Declaration completed Dec. 8, 2007 for Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties. The declaration provides Public Assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures, direct federal assistance for continuing response support, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

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