



# EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

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## For immediate release

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## 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 from this week's devastating storm and flooding. The EOC has received 159 requests for support, including fuel, water, generators, vehicles, sandbags, food, blankets, sanitation supplies, staff and rescues of stranded residents.

### Individual Assistance

A federal disaster declaration made today will provide individual assistance to residents and business owners in Grays Harbor and Lewis counties. Please call 1-800-621-FEMA or visit [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) to register. Assistance available to eligible applicants may include Housing Assistance, Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans and/or Other Needs Assistance. Other assistance programs will also be available, including Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Legal Services, IRS (casualty loss) and Crisis Counseling.

### Weather

Nighttime temperatures have been dropping into the low 20s, increasing the need for heating fuel (wood and gas) and other cold weather requirements for those residents still without power.

### Energy

Grays Harbor County had approximately 700 customers without power as of 2:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Lewis County has approximately 10 customers without power, and Mason County, five. Power has been restored to Pacific County customers.

### Shelters

As of Saturday night, 80 people were housed in Red Cross and community shelters, down from 96 the night before. People who need immediate help finding food, housing and other essential support should contact the American Red Cross at 1-866-Get Info. Shelter locations may change as needs change. People seeking shelter should contact their county emergency management office for active shelter locations.

Currently, five ARC shelters are open in three counties:

- **Grays Harbor County**  
Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, Elma
- **Lewis County**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Chehalis

LDS Church, Centralia  
Centralia National Guard Armory

- **Pacific County**

LDS Church, Long Beach

### **Relief Efforts**

Primary efforts are centered on assisting local jurisdictions by providing generators to power water systems in addition to supplying bottled water, food, fuel and blankets to outlying population centers.

### **Public Health and Safety**

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a major concern for those who still do not have power. The Department of Health (DOH) urges state agencies and local emergency responders to continue warning people about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### **Water**

The state Department of Health reports 11 water systems serving 2,819 people are currently shut down, and another 10 water systems covering 10,657 people are on boiled water advisories. Four systems affecting 6,450 people have had service restored. The boil water order for Grays Harbor Water District #2 in Central Park was lifted. For questions about drinking water safety and systems, please contact 1-800-521-0323.

### **Roads**

The Washington State Patrol cautions drivers that debris could be on roadways, and there are some areas where landslides and flood damage have resulted in lane closures:

- Highway 101 between Quilcene and Hoodport (milepost 340) is restricted to local traffic only between mileposts 295 and 332.
- State Route 6 near Pe Ell remains closed due to mudslides.
- State Route 106, between Belfair and Union, is restricted to local traffic.
- State Route 96, in the Mill Creek area, will be closed for approximately four weeks because of a sinkhole that washed out the roadway.

If possible, drivers should check the Department of Transportation Web site for any closures:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov>. Drivers should also have warm clothes, blankets, water and food supplies in the vehicle in case they encounter a lengthy road closure.

### **Relief Organizations**

Private relief agencies say the public has responded generously to the needs of flood victims, adding that cash donations designated for flood relief are the best way to help. Although relief agencies continue to accept donated goods, they want the public to understand that donated goods cannot be designated for specific locations or response efforts.

### **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

The state departments of Health, Agriculture and Ecology are assisting Lewis and Thurston counties with the safe disposal of animal carcasses. The total number and types of animal deaths is unknown. Transfer locations to receive small and large carcasses have been designated in Lewis County, and some of the containers are already full. The contractor will begin transporting the containers to the designated landfill Monday. 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.

### **National Guard Support**

Although most of the National Guard services members who have been deployed this week are returning to their regular lives, some guardsmen are still actively in the field. National Guard liaisons are working in Lewis and Grays Harbor counties as well as the State Emergency Operations Center. Nine Air Guardsmen are staffing a supply truck, providing hygiene packages, food, and water to outlying areas. Another 35 are awaiting additional assignment.

### **Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)**

The Chehalis office is temporarily relocating to 3401 Galvin Road in Centralia, and it should be open to clients Monday morning. DSHS offices in Aberdeen are open, too.

### **Hazardous Material Response and Other Post-Flood Issues**

The Department of Ecology is providing information on a variety of post-flood issues for residents and businesses, including:

- Actions to take if people come upon hazardous materials or spills caused by flood waters.
- What to do with debris deposited by the storm.
- How businesses with chemicals and other wastes can dispose of them safely.

### **Public Safety and Security**

Attorney General Rob McKenna is warning Washington residents to beware of possible flood-related repair scams including fraudulent home repair offers and charity appeals. The Attorney General suggests the following tips:

- Insist on seeing proper identification from anyone who offers assistance for pay;
- Never provide personal information to an unknown caller or someone who comes to the door; and
- Avoid contractors who solicit door to door, pressure you for an immediate decision, accept only cash, request all or most of the money upfront, offer an exceptionally low bid or refuse to provide a written contract. Whenever possible, homeowners should work with a local contractor they know and trust.

### **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; Social and Health Services; Community, Trade and Economic Development; Health; Ecology; Fish and Wildlife; Natural Resources; Transportation; 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 Disaster (WAVOAD), WIN 2-1-1 and ARES/RACES (amateur radio).

### **Declarations and proclamations**

- Presidential Declaration, Individual Assistance for Grays Harbor and Lewis counties, Dec. 9, 2007.
- Presidential Declaration, Public Assistance Category A and B approved for Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Thurston and Pacific counties, Dec. 8, 2007. Individual Assistance for Grays Harbor and Lewis Counties.
- Governor's Emergency Proclamation completed 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.

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