



EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

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 166 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 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.

Department of Social and Health Services

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) offices are reopening as flood waters recede and power is restored. DSHS has continued to provide essential services to clients by stationing staff in offices not affected by the storm.

The offices help clients to access food and cash assistance, provide services for vulnerable adults, services for abused and neglected children, and services for individuals with disabilities.

Offices that were reopened as of Friday December 7 include:

- **Aberdeen Offices** - 415 West Wishkah Street and 503 West Heron Street (Except the Division of Children and Family Services)
- **Forks Office** - 71 North Spartan
- **Long Beach Office** - 2601 Pacific Highway (limited services)
- **Neah Bay Office** - 1001 Bay View Avenue
- **Shelton Office** - 2505 Olympic Highway
- **South Bend Office** - 307 East Robert Bush Drive
- **Neah Bay Office** - Bayview Avenue, Community Building

The Chehalis Office at NE Hampe Way remains closed. However, the Community Services Office, which provides food and financial benefits, has been relocated to 3401 Galvin Road in Centralia. Chehalis clients can get services there.

DSHS clients normally served by one of the above offices, but are unable to access them, can contact the regional call center at 1-877-980-9180.

Employment Security

If your employer is closed or you can't get to work due to the recent storm or flooding, you may qualify for unemployment benefits. Apply for benefits online at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/ui/icapp/start.htm> or over the phone at 1-800-318-6022.

Weather

The weather is partly sunny Monday, with temperatures in the upper 30s to mid 40s. There's a chance of rain or showers Tuesday through Friday.

Energy

Grays Harbor County had approximately 250 customers without power as of 4:00 p.m. Monday afternoon. Lewis County has approximately 10 customers without power, and Mason County, five. Power has been restored to Pacific County customers.

Service Centers

The American Red Cross has opened service centers around the affected areas. These service centers provide comfort kits, cleaning kits and other donated items to the public.

- **Kitsap County** - American Red Cross - 811 Pacific Avenue, Bremerton, WA 98337 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Mason County** - Theier Center - 22871 NE State Rte. 3, Belfair, WA 98528 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Collins Lake Fire Station #27, 60 Collins Lake Road, Tahuya, WA 98588 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Lewis County** - Bethel Church (Room 3), 132 Kirkland Road, Chehalis, WA 98532 Open Monday through Saturday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Grays Harbor County** - Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, 320 Elma-McCleary Road, Elma, WA 98541 Open 24hrs until further notice
- **Pacific County** - 2821 Ocean Drive (Hwy 101), Raymond, WA 98577 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shelters

As of Sunday 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:

- **Lewis County**
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Chehalis

LDS Church, Centralia will close at 5:00 PM
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

Five water systems were known to be without water today, impacting 2,385 persons. Twenty-two systems are on boiled water advisory. This affects about 5,494 people. There are four systems where service has been restored serving 8,231 people. For questions about drinking water safety and systems, please contact 1-800-521-0323.

Flood Closures of Shellfish Growing Areas

Due to the December 3rd storm, the Office of Shellfish and Water Protection closed 20 commercial shellfish growing areas. There were a variety of reasons that the bays were contaminated, including overloaded and discharging sewer lines, power outages at wastewater treatment plants, flooded septic systems, and contaminated storm water from urban and rural areas.

One or more commercial areas were closed in the following counties - Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston, Pierce, Jefferson, Kitsap, Clallam, Snohomish and Island. Because dry weather started on December 4, we were able to reopen 15 growing areas by December 10. Two more areas will open this week and the other three growing areas should reopen next week. One hundred and forty-one (141) shellfish companies were initially impacted. By December 10, only 29 companies had closures that impacted them.

The timing of the storm was particularly bad for the shellfish industry because shellfish sales are very high between Thanksgiving and New Years.

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 Hoodspport (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 Department of Agriculture is urging farmers and ranchers to report storm damages to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. Farmers and ranchers who have crop insurance and have suffered damages should also contact their insurance agent. Damages should be reported as soon as they become apparent. A list of local USDA Service Centers is available on the Web site USDA Service Center Locator (<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>).

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. State Guard liaisons are working in Lewis county 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.

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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