



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 179 requests for support, including fuel, water, generators, vehicles, sandbags, food, blankets, sanitation supplies, staff and rescues of stranded residents.

New Donation Coordination Web site

There is a new state Web site to help locate resources for areas affected by this month's storms and flooding. Individuals can go to the Washington State Emergency Management website at <http://www.emd.wa.gov> and click on the "Donation Coordination" link to see a list of requested items. People who can supply any of the requested items should contact the requesting organization or county. For items not specifically listed on this Web site, people may contact 2-1-1 for information on donation sites.

Individual Assistance

A federal disaster declaration made Sunday, Dec. 9, will provide individual assistance to residents and business owners in Grays Harbor and Lewis counties. Please call 1-800-621-FEMA or visit <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.

Department of Social and Health Services

The Department of Social and Health Services, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, implemented the "Feed Washington Families" Disaster Food Stamp Program in Grays Harbor and Lewis counties to assist residents who have suffered significant losses due to storm-related damage. People must apply in person by Friday, Dec, 21, to receive the food stamp benefit. To help with larger volumes, the regional call center (1-877-980-9180) and two Community Service Offices (CSO) in Grays Harbor and Lewis counties will have extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. through the end of this week, at least. People can visit the website <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/mediareleases/2007/pr07131.shtml> for additional details. They need to apply in person for benefits at the following DSHS offices:

Grays Harbor County:

- **Aberdeen CSO - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** - 415 West Wishkah, Aberdeen, Wash. 98520
- **Aberdeen Home and Community Service Office (HCS) - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** - 503 West Heron Street, Aberdeen, Wash. 98520

Lewis County:

- **Chehalis CSO - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** - *Temporarily at* 3401 Galvin Road, Centralia, Wash. 98531
- **Chehalis HCS -8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** - 163 NE Hampe Way, Chehalis, Wash. 98532

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.go2ui.com>, or on the phone at 1-800-318-6022.

Weather

The weather will be mostly cloudy on Wednesday with a 30 percent chance of showers and a high near 42 degrees. Chance of rain or showers Thursday through Monday.

Energy

Though the number of power outages keeps going down, the State EOC has no new information since 4 p.m., Monday, when Grays Harbor County had approximately 250 customers without power; Lewis County, 10; and Mason County, five.

Service Centers

The American Red Cross has opened service centers around the affected areas. These service centers provide replacement prescriptions, rental lodging guidance and other services.

- **Lewis County** - Bethel Church, 132 Kirkland Road, Chehalis, Wash. 98532, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.
- **Grays Harbor County** – Having been open Tuesday at a temporary location in Aberdeen, the Red Cross plans Wednesday to open at a new location in Aberdeen and, perhaps, Montesano.
- **Pacific County** – 2870 Ocean Street, South Bend, Wash. 98587, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., daily.

Distribution Centers

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

- **Kitsap County** - American Red Cross, 811 Pacific Avenue, Bremerton, Wash. 98337, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., daily.
- **Mason County** - Theier Center, 22871 NE, State Route. 3, Belfair, Wash. 98528, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., daily.

Collins Lake Fire Station #27, 60 Collins Lake Road, Tahuya, Wash. 98588, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., daily.

- **Lewis County** - Bethel Church (room 3), 132 Kirkland Road, Chehalis, Wash. 98532, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- **Grays Harbor County** - Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, 320 Elma-McCleary Road, Elma, Wash. 98541, open 24 hours a day until further notice.
- **Pacific County** - 2821 Ocean Drive (Hwy 101), Raymond, Wash. 98577, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., daily.

Shelters

People who need immediate help finding food, housing and other essential support should contact the American Red Cross at 1-866-Get Info. On Monday night, 23 people were housed in Red Cross and community shelters, down from 80 the night before. Shelter locations may change. People seeking shelter should contact their county emergency management office for active shelter locations. Currently, one ARC shelter is open in Lewis County but it will be closing tomorrow:

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

Relief and Recovery Efforts

The state continues to assist local jurisdictions, as needed, by providing generators to power water systems in addition to supplying bottled water, food, fuel and blankets to outlying population centers. The primary focus has shifted to recovery operations and damage assessments.

Water

There are a number of small systems either without water or under a boil water notice (particularly in Grays Harbor and Pacific counties).

- Still out of water: Four systems, population 2,378
- Boil water notice in place: 23 systems, population 5,501
- Returned to service: Four systems, population 8,231

For questions about drinking water safety and systems, 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 mileposts 295 and 332 (between Quilcene and Hoodspport) is restricted to local traffic only.
- State Route 6 near Pe Ell remains closed due to mudslides.
- State Route 96 in the Mill Creek area will be closed for approximately four weeks because of a sinkhole that washed out the roadway.

Drivers can check for closures at the Department of Transportation Web site:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov>. Drivers should have warm clothes, blankets, water and food supplies in their 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.

Washington Information Network 2-1-1

- ◆ Storm-related contacts received by WIN 2-1-1 since Dec. 1:
 - 602 phone phone calls
 - 456 emails
 - 20 voice-mail messages
- ◆ A 2-1-1 call agent will be on-call for emerging needs from 5-11 p.m. through the end of this week.
- ◆ WIN 2-1-1 is supporting the coordination effort to provide donated items to Lewis County.
- ◆ 2-1-1 is providing information and referrals to help residents find a variety of resources including emergency food and shelter, places to make donations, FEMA contact information, road closure information, assistance locating pets and animals, power- and phone-outage updates, hygiene and clean-up specifics, clean-up assistance and repairs, transportation, places to volunteer or donate, locations to obtain clothing and personal goods, general information, insurance information and financial aid.

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 are apparent. A list of local USDA Service Centers is available on the USDA Service Center Locator Web site (<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 in the field. State Guard liaisons are working in Lewis County as well as the State Emergency Operations Center. Eight Air Guardsmen are staffing supply trucks which provide hygiene packages, generators, pumps, food and water to outlying areas.

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.

- 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 last week's storm and flooding: two in Grays Harbor County, two in King County, one in Mason County and one in Pacific County. Pierce County Emergency Management has announced that an additional three people are presumed dead.

Activation status

- State EOC continues full Phase III activation.
- Local emergency operations centers remain activated in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason and Thurston counties; and the 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.
- Governor's Emergency Proclamation completed Dec. 3, 2007.
- Local Emergency Declarations: Clallam County; Grays Harbor County; Jefferson County; King County; Kitsap County; Lewis County; Mason County; Pacific County; Pierce County; Snohomish County; Thurston County; Wahkiakum County; Whatcom County; City of Centralia; City of Bothell; City of Kirkland; Makah Tribe; and Quinault Indian Nation.

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