



# 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 183 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. Some requests have been met by concerned businesses and citizens. Lewis County received cash donations that bought 75 2,500-watt generators to power homes and Grays Harbor County received enough water for 100 people. For items not specifically listed on this Web site, people may contact 2-1-1 for information on donation sites.

### **Preliminary Damage Assessment**

The state is working closely with FEMA on completing surveys of storm and flood damage to see if more counties can be added to last weekend's disaster declarations. The survey teams consist of state and FEMA Public Assistance program staff, FEMA hazard mitigation staff, FEMA environmental staff, if needed, and local jurisdiction staff. The state/FEMA teams meet local emergency management representatives in their jurisdictions to survey damages together. The teams will be assessing damages to homes, businesses (for Individual Assistance) and public infrastructure such as roads and buildings (for Public Assistance).

### **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.

### **Public Assistance**

The federal disaster declaration will also provide disaster Public Assistance to Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston Counties. Public Assistance programs provide state and local governments, and certain non-profit organizations, assistance for cleanup and emergency protection measures.

## **Energy**

As of noon today, Grays Harbor County had approximately ten customers without power and Mason County, five.

## **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.

## **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 Web site <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

## **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, Wash. 98337 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Mason County** - Theier Center - 22871 NE State Rte. 3, Belfair, Wash. 98528 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Collins Lake Fire Station #27, 60 Collins Lake Road, Tahuya, Wash. 98588 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Lewis County** - Bethel Church (Room 3), 132 Kirkland Road, Chehalis, Wash. 98532 Open Monday through Saturday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Grays Harbor County** - Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, 320 Elma-McCleary Road, Elma, Wash. 98541 Open 24hrs until further notice

- **Pacific County** - 2821 Ocean Drive (Hwy 101), Raymond, Wash. 98577 Open Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **Shelters**

All Red Cross managed shelters are closed as of 5 p.m. today. Sixteen people stayed in the last shelter in Centralia last night.

### **Water**

Three water systems were known to be without water today, impacting 2,340 persons. Twenty-one systems are on boiled water advisory. This affects about 2,656 people. There are seven systems where service has been restored serving 11,114 people. For questions about drinking water safety and systems, please contact 1-800-521-0323.

### **Flood Closures of Shellfish Growing Areas**

Four shellfish growing areas remain closed impacting 22 companies.

### **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 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 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>).

### **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. Pierce County Emergency Management has announced that an additional three people are presumed dead.

## **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 EOC.

## **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.

## **Activation status**

- State EOC continues full Phase III activation.
- Lewis County EOC remains fully activated.

## **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; Shoalwater Bay Tribe; and Quinault Indian Nation.

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