



# EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

---

## For immediate release

News release No. 23

Dec. 13, 2007; 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Rob Harper

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

Web address: [www.wadisasternews.com](http://www.wadisasternews.com)

## State Flood Update

Camp Murray, Wash. – The Washington State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will drop to an intermediate-level activation at 6 p.m. today as a result of lessening response requirements for the Dec. 3-4 storm and flooding disaster. Local, state and federal agencies continue recovery efforts. The State EOC continues to support local jurisdictions which are still busy with cleanup and recovery operations, and is still working 12 out of 183 requests received for items such as fuel, water, generators, vehicles, sandbags, food, blankets, sanitation supplies, staff and rescue of stranded residents.

### Preliminary Damage Assessment

The state and FEMA are working closely on surveys of storm and flood damage to see if more counties can be added to the disaster declarations. 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 teams plan to complete assessing damages to homes, businesses (for Individual Assistance) and public infrastructure such as roads and buildings (for Public Assistance) by Saturday. A request to add counties to the federal declaration, if justified, could come Monday.

### Public Assistance

The federal disaster declaration will also provide disaster Public Assistance to Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston counties for cleanup and emergency protection measures.

State and FEMA officials from the Public Assistance Program will brief potential applicants for assistance in clearing debris and repair of public infrastructure. Applicant briefings are scheduled in the following six counties:

- **Kitsap County – Monday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.**, Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management - 911 Carver St., Bremerton, Wash., 360-307-5870.
- **Thurston County – Monday, Dec. 17, 2:30 p.m.**, 2424 Heritage Court SW, Suite A, Olympia, Wash., 360-754-3360.
- **Mason County – Tuesday, Dec. 18, 9 a.m.**, Mason County PUD#3 Auditorium, 307 W. Cota, Shelton, Wash., 360-740-1151.
- **Lewis County – Wednesday, Dec. 19, 9:30 a.m.**, Lewis County Fire District 6, 2123 Jackson Highway, Chehalis, Wash., 360-748-6019.
- **Grays Harbor County – Wednesday, Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m.**, County Forestry Building, 310 W Spruce Street, Suite 212, Montesano, Wash., 360-249-3911.

- **Pacific County – Thursday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m.,** Pacific County Emergency Operations Center, Public Safety Building, 300 Memorial Drive, South Bend, Wash., 360-875-9340.

### **New Donation Coordination Web site**

Businesses and individuals can help locate resources for areas affected by this month's storms and flooding by going to <http://www.emd.wa.gov> and clicking on the "Donation Coordination" link to see a list of requested items. For items not specifically listed on this Web site, people may contact 2-1-1 for information on donation sites.

### **2-1-1**

2-1-1 is providing information and referral to help residents find a variety of resources. These include emergency food and shelter, places to make donations, FEMA contact, road closure information, assistance locating pets and animals, power and phone 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.

### **Energy**

Grays Harbor County has 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** - 415 West Wishkah, Aberdeen, Wash. 98520, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **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** - *Temporarily at* 3401 Galvin Road, Centralia, Wash. 98531, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Chehalis HCS -8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** - 163 NE Hampe Way, Chehalis, Wash. 98532

### **Service Centers**

The American Red Cross has opened five 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, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.
- **Lewis County** - Bethel Church (Room 3), 132 Kirkland Road, Chehalis, Wash. 98532, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Grays Harbor County** –  
WSU Extension Office, 32 Elma-McCleary, Elma, Wash. 98541, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.  
Coastal Community Action Center, 117 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Aberdeen, Wash. 98520, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.
- **Pacific County** - 2870 Ocean Street, South Bend, Wash. 98587, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily.

### **Shelters**

All Red Cross managed shelters closed yesterday.

### **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 closed to traffic for mudslide at milepost 325, mudslide between milepost 295 to 332 and damaged roadway at milepost 330. Estimated time of reopening is unknown.
- State Route 6 closed in both directions from MP 19 after Elk Prairie Road to MP 29 before Mullenix Street until further notice due to a landslide.
- State Route 96 closed in the Mill Creek area due to sinkhole that washed out roadway until further notice.
- The right northbound lane of I-405 between SR 167 and SR 169 due to sinkhole. Work will be around the clock (except during the 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. weekday morning commute) for up to two weeks.

If possible, drivers should check the Department of Transportation Web site for any closures: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov> or call 5-1-1 for latest updates. Drivers should also have warm clothes, blankets, water and food supplies in the vehicle in case they encounter a lengthy road closure.

### **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 month'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**

All National Guard service members that were deployed due to the storm and flooding have returned to regular duty.

## **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 drops to Phase II enhanced as of 6 p.m.
- Lewis County EOC is partly 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; **Non-Governmental Organizations:** American Red Cross, Washington Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (WAVOAD), and WIN 2-1-1.

## **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: Clallam County; Grays Harbor County; Jefferson County; King County; Kitsap County; Lewis County; Mason County; Pacific County; Pierce County; Skamania County; Snohomish County; Thurston County; Wahkiakum County; Whatcom County; City of Bothell; City of Centralia; City of Kirkland; Makah Tribe; Shoalwater Bay Tribe; and Quinault Indian Nation.

###