



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 EOC activated due to floods in Western Washington

Camp Murray, WA -- The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at a Phase II at 10: 00 p.m. Nov. 11 in response to flooding conditions on several Western Washington rivers. Supervisory staff and key personnel have reported to the EOC.

Heavy rainfall has caused rivers in Mason, Grays Harbor, Whatcom, Clallam, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, and Thurston counties to approach or exceed flood stage. County emergency operations centers have been activated in King, Pierce, Lewis, Whatcom and Snohomish counties.

Gov. Christine Gregoire's office has been notified of the activation and will receive periodic updates on the flooding situation.

The State Enhanced 911 Office in cooperation with local telephone carriers reminds all citizens in the affected area:

- To stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need to make a telephone call. Remember a FAX or a computer also uses a telephone line and its use may affect your ability to get immediate help in a life-threatening emergency.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unless you need an emergency response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
- If you experience other types of problems not related to these emergency services, call the appropriate telephone number for those services.
- DO NOT call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. 9-1-1 lines must be kept open for people who have a true emergency.
- If you pick up your telephone to make a call and do not hear dial tone, DO NOT HANG UP. Simply wait a few seconds, and you will get dial tone and be able to make your call.

Residents in flood prone or flood watch areas should consider the following preparedness actions:

- Listen to radio or television stations for local information and weather reports.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood suddenly.

- Do not walk or drive through floodwaters.
- Secure your home. If time permits, also secure items located outside the house.
- If instructed, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves.
- Fill your car with fuel.
- Fill the bathtub with water in case the water supply becomes contaminated or services are cut off. Sterilize the bathtub first.
- When deep flooding is likely, permit the floodwaters to flow freely into your basement to avoid structural damage to the foundation and the house.

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