

Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Response



For immediate release

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www.wadisasternews.com

Flooding Storm Update #2

Washington
Military
Department

CAMP MURRAY, WASH. —Significant rainfall on top of recent snowfall is causing flooding throughout the state.

Washington
Emergency
Management
Division

The State, 15 counties, nine cities, and one tribe emergency operations centers (EOCs) are open as of 11:00 a.m. Wednesday monitoring storm conditions. Thurston, Wahkiakum and Whatcom Counties declared emergencies today. Evacuations have begun in Orting and Naselle, in Pierce County and Pacific County respectively. The State Rescue Coordination Center at the State EOC is activated for rescue mission requests associated with the current weather situation.

Camp Murray,
Washington

Flood warnings are in effect today through Friday for 14 counties in Western Washington and six in Eastern Washington. A dozen rivers are projected to experience major to record flooding. Avalanches and landslides are affecting state highways.

www.emd.wa.gov

Weather for today through Thursday will be of rain steady to heavy rain across the state. The Cascades and Olympics will get as many as 10 more inches. The Southwest interior and coast could receive up to 6 inches. In Eastern Washington, rainfall and snowmelt will create the potential for small stream and urban flooding, with possible ice jams on some small creeks and streams.

Washington State Patrol (WSP) & Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) report Blewett, Snoqualmie, Stevens and White Passes closed. Major highway road closures reported include SR 106, SR 410, SR 539, SR 9, SR 546, SR 162, SR 112, SR 165, SR 8 and SR 20 due to mudslides, water over roadway, roadcuts and safety concerns. Please check with the WSDOT for closures and approximate reopening times at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/trafficalerts/>.

WSP Urges Motorists to Avoid Travel Unless Absolutely Necessary

“We’d urge people to avoid going out on the roads unless it’s absolutely necessary,” said WSP Chief John R. Batiste. He urged those who must go out to be prepared with food, water and warm clothing or a sleeping bag in their car. Motorists who find themselves stranded are urged to stay with their vehicles. The shelter of the car is good protection against the elements, and those walking outside their vehicles risk being struck by other out-of-control cars.

Power Outages and Shelters

Four shelters opened Wednesday: they are in King County (Snoqualmie’s Cascade View Elementary School); Kittitas County (Upper Kittitas County Senior Center); Pierce County (Graham’s Evergreen Presbyterian Church); and Whatcom County (Kendell Elementary School).

With the amount of rain that has fallen on saturated soils there is a threat of power outages. During power outages, the use of generators and alternative heat sources raises the public health concern of carbon monoxide poisoning.

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Stay off the phone unless there is a critical need.

The State Enhanced 911 Office, in cooperation with local telephone carriers, reminds people across the state:

- 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.

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