

Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Response



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Flooding Storm Update #3

CAMP MURRAY, WASH. —Significant rainfall on top of recent snowfall is causing flooding throughout the state. The State, 16 counties, nine cities, and two tribal emergency operations centers (EOCs) are open monitoring storm conditions. Chelan, Clallam, Cowlitz, Kittitas, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum and Whatcom Counties plus the cities of Snoqualmie and Orting have declared emergencies.

Gov. Chris Gregoire has arrived in Germany, where she is visiting recuperating servicemen and women at a hospital near Ramstein Air Force Base prior to her return to the state tomorrow. She was briefed earlier today by her senior cabinet, Emergency Management officials and the Washington State Patrol. Gregoire asked Lt. Gov. Brad Owen and other cabinet members to tour the flood damage in her absence.

Record Flooding

Flood warnings are in effect today through Friday for 14 counties in Western Washington and six in Eastern Washington. Several rivers are projected to experience near-record flooding today and tomorrow.

Evacuations

Voluntary evacuations are recommended for the cities of Naselle, Orting, Packwood, Randle and Snoqualmie.

The following shelters are open:

- King County – Sammamish Cascade Ridge Elementary School, Snoqualmie's Cascade View Elementary School;
- Kittitas County - Upper Kittitas County Senior Center;
- Pierce County – Bonney Lake's Prairie Ridge Community Center, Graham's Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Puyallup Bethany Baptist Church and Nazarene Church;
- Thurston County – Rochester's LDS church.

Livestock shelters have opened in Pierce County at Frontier Park, Puyallup Fairgrounds, Evergreen Presbyterian Church, and Prairie Ridge Community Center at Bonney Lake plus a pet shelter at the Sumner Veterinary Center. Please contact 2-1-1 regarding livestock and pet shelter status.

Road closures are preventing Puget Sound Energy crews from responding to power outages east of Concrete, near Marblemount in the North Cascades, in Lynden and on Crystal Mountain. PSE reports 500 households with power outages in Olympia.

Road Closures

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 202, SR 162, SR 112, SR 165, SR 10, 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/>.

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Evacuation Advisory

- Residents who have not evacuated flood areas are encouraged to do so as long as they can do so safely. Due to widespread flooding throughout western Washington, resources for rescue will be extremely limited. Take responsibility for yourself and your family and evacuate now.
- If you cannot evacuate safely, shelter in place.
- If you have a life and death emergency, call 911 to report your emergency.

Call 2-1-1 for Non-Emergency Information

Non-Emergency Information & Referral inquiries can be made by calling 2-1-1 (Available M-F 8am-5pm).

Travel Points

- Don't drive through standing water, regardless of whether there is a sign closing the road.
- Consider delaying long trips until the flooding has receded. It's likely that cross-state travel will be difficult for at least a couple of days. You don't want to get half-way there and find yourself stranded by floodwater. Even if you're at a safe location, it might not be possible to return home.
- If you must travel, go properly equipped. Have food and water for every person in the car, along with warm clothing or sleeping bags. If you do get stranded, stay with your car unless it's threatened by rising flood waters.

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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