

Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Response



Washington
Military
Department

Washington
Emergency
Management
Division

Camp Murray,
Washington

www.emd.wa.gov

For immediate release

News Release No. 8-Correction

Jan. 8, 2009, 11 p.m.

Contact: Mark Clemens, public information officer

Media Line: 800-688-8955

www.wadisasternews.com

Correction: Interstate 5 in Chehalis remains closed from mile post 68-88 until further notice.

Flooding Storm Update #8

CAMP MURRAY, WASH.— Sixteen counties, seventeen cities, and two tribal emergency operations centers (EOCs) remain open monitoring flooding issues related to the recent rainstorm. While response operations are still being coordinated in some areas, locals are beginning recovery activities such as requesting damage reports from affected residents and business.

Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Thurston, Walla Walla, Wahkiakum, Whatcom Counties and Yakima, plus the cities of Carnation, Cle Elum, Fife, North Bend, North Bonneville, Olympia, Orting, Snoqualmie, South Prairie, Sumner, Tacoma and Wilkeson have declared emergencies. Spokane's declaration of emergency continues from the earlier snowstorm.

The Governor's Proclamation of Emergency covering the recent floods in the state should be signed this week.

Record Flooding

In Western Washington, ten rivers are in flood status with four rivers forecasted to remain above the major flooding threshold for the next 48 hours, according to the National Weather Service <http://www.weather.gov/ahps/>. In Eastern Washington, three rivers are in flood status experiencing minor flooding except for Yakima River at Parker that is due for moderate flooding.

Evacuations

Voluntary evacuations continue for designated areas in the cities of Castle Rock, Concrete, Montesano, Naselle, Packwood, Puyallup, Randle, Stanwood, and Woodland plus Riverside Fire District 10 in east Pierce County, Cockreham Island along the Skagit River, and flood prone areas in Grays Harbor County and Wahkiakum County.

Twenty one American Red Cross and 14 independent shelters are reported open Thursday night, plus seven livestock and two pet shelters. Please call 2-1-1 for current status of shelters.

Washington State Department of Health issued a boil water advisory for the following:

- Residents of South Bend and the Parpala Road area of Naselle in Pacific County;
- Residents of Morton and Pe Ell in Lewis County;
- Residents near Port Angeles served by the Crescent Water Association in Clallam County;
- Residents of Water District #5 in Kittitas County;
- Residents of Hart Creek Summer Homes in Yakima County;
- Residents of Acme along Turkington Road in Whatcom County.

Road Closures

Blewett, Snoqualmie and White passes remain closed. However, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) announced Stevens Pass on highway US 2 reopened at 3:55 p.m.

Interstate 5 in Chehalis remains closed from mile post 68-88 until further notice.

More than 30 state highways have reopened from those initially closed due to mudslides, water over roadways, roadcuts and safety concerns. Please check with the WSDOT Website for closures and approximate reopening times at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/trafficalerts/> or call 5-1-1.

- more -

Continued from page 1

The following are recommendations for dealing with flooding and landslide situations.

After a Flood

- Stay away from flood waters and downed power lines.
- Wear gloves and boots when cleaning up.
- Open all doors and windows. Use fans if possible to air out the building.
- Wash all clothes and linens in hot water.
- Discard mattresses and stuffed furniture; they can't be adequately cleaned.
- Wash dirt and mud from walls, counters and hard surfaced floors with soap and water. Disinfect by wiping surfaces with a solution of one cup bleach per gallon of water.
- Discard all food, cosmetics and medicines that have come into contact with floodwater. Canned foods are alright, but thoroughly wash the can before opening.
- If your well is flooded, your tap water is probably unsafe. If you have public water, the health department will let you know — through radio and television — if your water is not safe to drink. Until your water is safe, use clean bottled water. Learn how to purify water. If you have a well, learn how to decontaminate it.
- Do not use your septic system when water is standing on the ground around it. The ground below will not absorb water from sinks or toilets. When the soil has dried, it is probably safe to again use your septic system. To be sure, contact your local health department.
- If your basement is flooded, pump it out gradually (about 1/3 of the water per day) to avoid damage. The walls may collapse and the floor may buckle if the basement is pumped out while the surrounding ground is still waterlogged.
- Individuals with manufactured homes should remove the rodent barrier and insulation from under the structure. This will allow the floor to dry out and minimize damage and warping. The Department of Labor and Industries has a checklist with more tips at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/FAS/default.asp>.
- As floodwaters recede, watch out for weakened road surfaces.

After a Landslide

- Stay away from the slide area; there may be a danger of additional slides and flooding.
- Help your neighbors who may require special assistance – infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Check for injured and trapped persons near the slide area. Give first aid.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for emergency information.
- Check for damaged utility lines. Report any damage to the utility company.
- Check the building foundation, chimney and surrounding land for damage.

Stay off the phone unless there is a critical need.

- 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 or 2-1-1.

See the [EMD Emergency Resource Guide](http://emd.wa.gov/publications/documents/2008Emergency_Resource_Guide.pdf) at http://emd.wa.gov/publications/documents/2008Emergency_Resource_Guide.pdf for more information

++ ++ ++ ++