

Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Response



Washington
Military
Department

Washington
Emergency
Management
Division

Camp Murray,
Washington

www.emd.wa.gov

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Flooding Storm Update #10

CAMP MURRAY, WASH.— Overall, the majority of flood threats are diminishing in our state. Rain showers are expected for today, but the amount of rain is not expected to increase flooding. Avalanche and landslide dangers continue.

The state, one tribe, eight counties, and seven cities emergency operations centers (EOCs) remain open 24/7 monitoring flooding issues related to the recent rainstorm. Twenty eight county and city EOCs have returned to day operations. Twenty-one counties and 14 cities declared emergencies during January 2009 related to flooding.

On Friday, Gov. Chris Gregoire, along with US Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, US Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, and state emergency response officials toured flood damaged areas.

Flooding

In Western Washington, flood warnings and watches remain in effect for three rivers. In Eastern Washington, there is a flooding warning on the Yakima River in Benton County. Statewide, most rivers have crested and are beginning to recede today according to the National Weather Service <http://www.weather.gov/ahps/>.

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) issued a boil water advisory for several communities affected by floods. Several areas are without water. Citizens should check the DOH website for the most update information at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/2009_news/09-004.htm.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) reports residents who want to burn debris from recent floods should contact Ecology or their local clean air agency for rules and permit information.

Shelters

Twelve American Red Cross shelters housing 97 individuals and four independent shelters were reported open Friday night, plus three livestock and three pet shelters. Consolidation of shelters is anticipated as people and animals return back to their homes.

Road Closures

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) reports Snoqualmie Pass is open. As of 0900 today, US-12 is closed from MP 130 to 97. Interstate-5 is open. Blewett pass remains closed. For additional details, call 5-1-1 or visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/trafficalerts/>.

Report your Damage

Local EOCs have begun collecting preliminary damage assessments from renters, home, farm and business owners. Whether you are a renter, home, farm or business owner – insured or uninsured – remember to report your damages to your local emergency management agency. Visit the Emergency Management Division's website at: <http://www.emd.wa.gov> or call 2-1-1 for your local emergency management office phone numbers.

WEMD will begin a preliminary damage assessment process with local and federal officials next week.

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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.

For more information, 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

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