



EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

For immediate release

News Release No. 5

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State EOC returns to normal operations

Camp Murray, WA -- The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) returned to normal operations at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, 2008, after 44 hours of Phase II activation due to flooding on numerous Washington rivers.

Ten jurisdictions activated their emergency operations centers to monitor and respond to the flood event. Eight jurisdictions declared a state of emergency for this storm series. Flood warnings had been issued for at least 19 different river systems. As of 5:00 p.m., parts of the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, Puyallup, Nisqually and Cowlitz Rivers remained on flood warning.

The State Department of Transportation closed several major roadways and bridges, and damage assessment is on-going at this time to determine damages sustained by this event. Many local jurisdictions also closed roadways which were inundated with water. Among the more serious situations occurring as a result of this storm beyond the flooding of river banks, Pierce County sustained a levee breach, and the town of Cosmopolis sustained damage to the Mill Creek Dam. Water remains over some roadways, and citizens are discouraged from attempting to pass through those areas. For a complete list of road closures, information is available at: <http://dot.wa.gov>

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has closed several beaches to shellfish harvesting. Citizens should check DOH's website for updated information.

Homeowners, renters and businesses who have experienced damages as a result of this recent storm series are encouraged to call their local emergency operations center to report their damages. *It is imperative that damages be reported immediately to local emergency offices in order for the state to determine whether a Federal Assistance should be sought.*

When reporting damages, callers should be prepared to supply the following information:

- Name and address of affected property
- Type of insurance (flood)
- A description of damage, even if uninsured

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- A **personal** estimate of uninsured losses (it is not necessary for property owners to have a contractor's estimate – a rough estimate is acceptable.)
- Tax assessor's valuation of the structure (*not* including the property value)

Public facility managers are also encouraged to call their local emergency management officials to report damages sustained to public buildings, (off-system) roadways, or any other public facility.

If citizens have questions concerning any damages or whether a specific type of damage is covered, please contact your local emergency management office. Once the deadline passes, recovery will not be available.

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