

# Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Response



For immediate release  
**News Release No. 6**  
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[www.wadisasternews.com](http://www.wadisasternews.com)

## Flooding Storm Update #6

**CAMP MURRAY, WASH.**—Rainfall is decreasing in western Washington but some rivers have not crested yet while rivers in eastern Washington are rising. Emergency proclamation status:

### GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION Dec. 24, 2008 (Amended Jan. 2, 2009)

LOCAL DECLARATIONS FOR SNOW STORMS		LOCAL DECLARATIONS FOR FLOODING		LOCAL DECLARATIONS FOR SNOW STORMS		LOCAL DECLARATIONS FOR FLOODING	
Counties		Counties		Tribes		Counties	
Mason	Dec. 18	Whatcom	Jan. 7	Makah	Dec. 23		
Pierce	Dec. 19	Thurston	Jan. 7				
Thurston	Dec. 20	Wahkiakum	Jan. 7	<b>Cities</b>		<b>Cities</b>	
Grays Harbor	Dec. 23	Kittitas	Jan. 7	Spokane Valley	Dec. 23	Snoqualmie	Jan. 7
King	Dec. 24	Clallam	Jan. 7	Gig Harbor	Dec. 23	Orting	Jan. 7
Snohomish	Dec. 24	Cowlitz	Jan. 7	Spokane	Dec. 24	Carnation	Jan. 7
Spokane	Dec. 27	Skamania	Jan. 7	Olympia	Dec. 26	Sumner	Jan. 7
Pend Oreille	Dec. 29	Chelan	Jan. 7	Cheney	Dec. 29	Wilkeson	Jan. 7
Wahkiakum	Dec. 29	Lewis	Jan. 7	Tumwater	Dec. 30	South Prairie	Jan. 7
Lewis	Jan. 5	Pierce	Jan. 7	Lake Forest Park	Dec. 31	North Bonneville	Jan. 7
Walla Walla	Jan. 5	Jefferson	Jan. 7	Colville	Dec. 31	Tacoma	Jan. 7
		Columbia	Jan. 7			Fife	Jan. 7
		Skagit	Jan. 7			North Bend	Jan. 7
		Clark	Jan. 8			Cle Elum	Jan. 7
		Pacific	Jan. 7				
		Yakima	Jan. 8				
		Grays Harbor	Jan. 8				

### Record Flooding

Four rivers are at record flood levels and they are the Chehalis, Newaukum, Snoqualmie, and Stillaguamish rivers. Twenty rivers are above flood stage and they include the Cedar, Cowlitz, Lewis, Naches, Nehalem, Nisqually, Nooksack, Palouse, Puyallup, Satsop, Skagit, Skokomish, Skookumchuck, Skykomish, Snohomish, Tolt, Tualatin, Walla Walla, Willapa, and Yakima rivers.

### Evacuations

Voluntary evacuations continue for designated areas in the cities of Castle Rock, Concrete, Fife, Kelso, Montesano, Naselle, Orting, Packwood, Puyallup, Randle, Snoqualmie, South Kelso, 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.

Forty-four shelters were reported open throughout Washington with 266 individuals staying overnight. Please call 2-1-1 for current status of family, warming, livestock, and pet shelters.

### Road Closures

Interstate-5 in Chehalis remains closed from mile post 68-88 until further notice, but is anticipated to reopen by Monday, January 12, 2009. Major state highways remain closed due to mudslides, water over roadway, 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.

Washington  
 Military  
 Department  
  
 Washington  
 Emergency  
 Management  
 Division  
 Camp Murray,  
 Washington  
[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)

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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>.
- When floodwaters have receded, watch out for weakened road surfaces.

### **After a Landslide**

- Stay away from the slide area; there may be 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](http://emd.wa.gov/publications/documents/2008Emergency_Resource_Guide.pdf)

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