

For Immediate Release: January 12, 2004

## **County Asks Citizens for Help with Natural Hazards Plan**

County residents who have concerns, interest in, or information about known natural hazards such as floods, earthquake, landslides, or wildfires, are being asked to bring their knowledge or experience to the County's attention at either of two public meetings:

### **Tuesday, January 27**

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Arlington Boys and Girls Club  
18513 59th Ave NE, 98223

### **Thursday, January 29**

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

City of Monroe Fire Station  
163 Village Court, 98272

A coalition of Snohomish County cities and agencies is working together to prepare an All Natural Hazards Plan, a strategic plan identifying hazards and areas of vulnerability within the County, and prioritizing actions needed to increase public safety and reduce hazards. The area covered by this plan includes unincorporated Snohomish County along with the cities of Arlington, Darrington, Gold Bar, Index, Marysville, Monroe, Mukilteo, Snohomish, Stanwood, and Sultan. The completed plan will greatly benefit the County and citizens in competing for federal disaster relief funds.

"The knowledge of residents and landowners is essential to the development of this plan," said Snohomish County Public Works Director Peter Hahn. "We're hoping for a good turnout so we can get good firsthand information, and have the opportunity to share this important plan and process with interested County residents."

In addition, public comment is sought on opportunities for Snohomish County to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant funds to address repetitive and recent flood damaged areas and structures around the county.

The meetings will follow an open house format, with stations for information and exchange with citizens on key topics including:

- ◇ Each type of natural hazard identified in the County, with maps showing their locations,
- ◇ The All Hazards Plan, and the Hazard Inventory and Vulnerability Analysis,
- ◇ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance and Community Rating System programs,
- ◇ The Skykomish River Flood Plan (Monroe meeting only)
- ◇ Home Elevation and Buyout options for flood damaged properties

Questionnaires will be available at the meeting for residents to share information, if they so desire, on natural hazards present on their properties, and their relative preparedness to deal with hazard related emergencies. The questionnaires will also be available on the County's

website by the end of January at <http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/publicwk/swm.htm>. This information will become a part of the data considered in the development of the All Natural Hazards Plan.

If you are unable to attend but would like to complete a questionnaire, you may do that directly on-line, or mail to: DJ Sessner, Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management, 2731 Wetmore Avenue, Everett, WA 98201. Those who have questions or would like further information on the project are welcome to contact Ms. Sessner by phone at 425-388-3464, extension 4584 or by e-mail [hazardplan@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:hazardplan@co.snohomish.wa.us).

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Contact: DJ Sessner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
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