



**Snohomish County**  
**Department of Emergency Management**  
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## **Media Advisory – December 3, 2007**

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### **County responds to urban flooding, watching rivers closely**

Everett WA, December 3, 2007 – Snohomish County responded to heavy rainfall and potential urban flooding by opening its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Paine Field early Monday morning.

Snohomish County Public Works activated crews over the weekend to prepare for weather-related problems on County roadways. They are actively responding to resident concerns regarding drainage systems backing up onto roads and private property. The southwest county urban area is the hardest hit at this time by localized flooding. Some of the problems are as simple as leaves blocking drains or sticks and debris blocking pipes. Residents who can safely remove drain blockage are encouraged to do so.

Heavy rainfall over the past 48-hours has overwhelmed many small streams, detention ponds and drainage systems, leading to moderate flooding of some roadways and private property in urban areas.

There have been a number of small slides onto roads due to saturated ground that are being cleared by Snohomish County Road Maintenance crews. At this time there are about 9 County roads closed due to water over the road.

For information about road conditions and closures, please call Snohomish County Road Maintenance at (425) 388-7500.

Officials urge residents not to drive where water is over the road or past barricades. If you come to a flooded area, turn around immediately and go another way. The primary cause of deaths from floods is driving in flooded roadways.

The County is monitoring local river levels closely and has activated its flood information lines. The Department of Emergency Management is coordinating deployment of sand bags and has begun pushing out sand to Index and Granite Falls to assist in flood fighting there. Inmate Work Crews housed in the Snohomish County Corrections Work Release Facility have been filling sandbags to prepare to protect homes and businesses along the banks of the Stillaquamish river near Silvana from flood waters.

The flood information line for the Snohomish, Snoqualmie and Skykomish Rivers phone number is (425) 388-3653. For the Stillaguamish River the number is (425) 388-3702.

The National Weather Service has downgraded the high wind warning for Monday to an advisory. Sustained winds of 15 mph with gusts between 25 – 30 mph are possible.

The Red Cross is opening an emergency shelter at World Harvester Family Church with an estimated opening time of 1:00 p.m. The shelter is open to anyone displaced by flooding and will remain open as long as necessary. The World Harvester Family Church is located at 20830 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. West, Lynnwood

For complete real time flood warning information and information about road closures residents are encouraged to go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and click on the “Flood and Road Closure Emergency Information” link.

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