

## **News Advisory – Tuesday, May 16, 2006**

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# **Executive Reardon accepts FEMA award for County's flood damage reduction efforts**

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## **Flood control programs result in a 25 percent savings on flood insurance premiums for County residents**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon accepted a plaque from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) at a ceremony today recognizing Snohomish County's acceptance into the federal Community Rating System (CRS). The award was presented by FEMA Regional Director, John E. Pennington at a ceremony at the Snohomish County Campus.

"Our qualification for a 25% insurance premium discount in flood hazard areas is one more example of how we are transforming government to improve County services and protect customer assets," says Executive Reardon. "Accountability and efficiency of County government will continue to be the hallmark of this administration."

The CRS rating allows the 1,452 County policy holders with properties in Special Flood Hazard areas to purchase flood insurance at a 25 percent discount. Snohomish County is one of only 32 of the 1,038 participating communities in the nation to rate low enough to receive a 25% discount for its residents.

The Federal CRS is a rating system from one to ten with one being the best rating possible. For every decrease in rating, residents can expect an additional 5% premium discount on their flood insurance policies. FEMA Director Pennington remarked that the County joined the elite few jurisdictions that have come into the federal CRS program at a five rating. According to Pennington, only about 3 jurisdictions nationwide have ever entered into the program at such a low rating.

Snohomish County's acceptance into the CRS program is the result of a wide range of County flood damage reduction efforts which exceed minimum national standards. CRS Snohomish County's Surface Water Management team in the Public Works department in partnership with the Planning and Development Services Department has in its first year received the CRS designation for work done in four main categories: public information, mapping and regulation, flood damage reduction,

flood preparedness. The average annual savings to property owners due to the CRS Class 5 rating will be about \$228 for those living inside floodplains and about \$80 for those outside a floodplain. County residents in floodplains can pay as much as \$1,000 per year.

Snohomish County Surface Water Management is preparing to notify the flood policy holders of the 25% discount to be applied to their premiums. No action is necessary for them to receive the premium discount. If residents have any questions about the County's efforts to reduce flooding impacts or would like other floodplain information they should check the County website at [www.flood.surfacewater.info](http://www.flood.surfacewater.info) or, contact Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management: Vaughn Collins, Flood Engineer at 425.388.3464 or Karen Wood-McGinness, CRS Coordinator at 425.388.6401 (TTY:425.388.3700).

People seeking flood insurance should contact the National Flood Insurance Program toll-free, at: 1-888-379-9531.

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