



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

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River levels on the rise, Reardon declares emergency

*Major flooding expected on the Snohomish River, County officials
monitoring other local rivers closely*

Everett WA, December 3, 2007 – Snohomish County joined the State of Washington and several other local jurisdictions in declaring a state of emergency in response to extremely heavy rainfall and local flooding.

“This declaration allows us to access state and federal resources as we coordinate our local flood-fighting efforts,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

Early Monday morning, Snohomish County actively responded to urban flooding which hit southern Snohomish County particularly hard. Snohomish County Emergency Management has activated its call center and is coordinating with local cities, the Army Corps of Engineers, diking districts, the Red Cross and local law enforcement to respond to flooding.

Throughout the morning and into the afternoon the National Weather Service has increased predictions for rainfall and potential flooding in Snohomish County.

The National Weather Service has upgraded the Snohomish River to a major flood stage event with flooding expected to reach 31.4 feet at the Snohomish gauge by 10 a.m. Tuesday morning. This would bring the Snohomish River near 2006 levels. The Snohomish River is expected to begin reaching flood stage at 10:00 p.m. Monday evening.

Residents can expect banks to overflow along the river, Old Snohomish -Monroe Highway to be closed when the river reaches between 15 and 19 feet, Riverview Road to begin flooding between 25 and 28 feet; and major flooding with a Lowell-Snohomish road closures.

The South Fork Stillaguamish River is predicted to crest above flood stage late Monday. The current forecast is for the river to reach 15.4 feet at Granite Falls. The rising water levels are expected to produce isolated bank erosion and stream flooding. Residents

should be prepared for the chance of flooding downstream of Granite Falls in the Jordan Road and Blue Spruce areas.

The North Fork Stillaguamish River is predicted to crest above flood stage late Monday evening. The current forecast is for the river to reach 13.6 feet above Arlington. Residents should expect local flooding along Oso Loop Road, isolated bank erosion and tributary stream flooding. Drivers should also use caution and prepare for water over the roadway on SR 530 near Cicero.

The Mainstem Stillaguamish River is currently forecasted to reach 18.0 feet at Arlington late Monday evening. This will likely create some moderate lowland flooding at Florence and Norman areas; water over the road at Pioneer Highway east of Silvana.

The North Fork Skykomish River at Index is at Flood Phase 2 and climbing on the Snohomish County Flooding Chart. This relates to minor flooding.

The Main Stem Skykomish River was predicted to be above flood stage, with the water levels rising quickly and a crest of 17 feet expected early on Tuesday morning. Residents should expect flooding in low pasture near Monroe, water over Ben Howard Road and Sportsman's Park. As the river crests river banks may overflow, some bank erosion and flooding in Sultan.

The County is monitoring local river levels closely and has activated its flood information lines. 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.

Snohomish County activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Paine Field early Monday morning.

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. 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 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 52nd Ave. West, Lynnwood

For complete real time flood warning information and information about road closures residents are encouraged to go to www.snoco.org and click on the "Flood and Road Closure Emergency Information" link.

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