



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

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County officials urge caution as rivers rise overnight

Everett WA, December 3, 2007 – Snohomish County residents are strongly encouraged to heed local weather service warnings regarding flooding on most Snohomish County rivers. Citizens in low-lying areas should be prepared to take the proper steps to ensure their personal safety in the event of flooding overnight.

“Overnight, we expect to see a transition from urban flooding to rising rivers similar to the Election Day floods of 2006,” said Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Director John Pennington. “Those who experienced flooding in 2006 in particular should use precaution and monitor flood gauges.”

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.

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. In addition to water, drivers should be aware of potential culvert washouts on upland rural roads.

Those that need to venture out should check both the Snohomish County and Washington State Department of Transportation websites for the most current road closure information. It is important that drivers do not attempt to go beyond road closure barricades and turn around and immediately go the other direction.

For individuals displaced from their homes due to today’s flooding, the Red Cross has opened an emergency shelter at World Harvester Family Church in Lynnwood. 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.

Residents with livestock can seek shelter for their animals at The Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. At this time there are about 20 animals being sheltered in Monroe with more expected to arrive later this evening.

To contact the fairgrounds regarding emergency animal shelter during business hours please call (360) 805-6700. After business hours the numbers are (425) 471-6522 or (425) 508-1840.

Floodwaters are expected to peak late Tuesday morning before beginning to recede tomorrow afternoon. It is recommended that those who expect to suffer property damage carefully gather information for damage assessments when floodwaters recede. It is recommended to take as many photographs before flood damage occurs if possible to provide the best assessment of damage for insurance claims.

County Public Works and Emergency Management personnel will continue to monitor the flood situation throughout the night.

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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