

Media Advisory – Feb. 11, 2009

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Flood damage reports must be made to FEMA

Snohomish County residents suffering damage or losses related to flooding between Jan. 6 and 16 are reminded to contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for individual assistance.

This must be done in addition to filing damage assessments with the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management.

If you do not register with FEMA, you will not receive any federal help.

Snohomish County reported to state and federal officials about \$18 million in damages to public and individual property. The federal government has set aside funding to assist public and private property owners in recovery. FEMA typically offers a variety of assistance to individuals following a disaster declaration.

First Steps

Disaster victims **must** first register with FEMA for assistance. The sooner residents register, the quicker they may see federal assistance. FEMA has set up a toll-free number (1-800-621-FEMA) so that individuals and households may begin to apply for assistance immediately. Residents also may register online at www.fema.gov.

When registering, callers will be asked if they have insurance to cover their losses and if they need temporary housing. Individuals with insurance coverage will be referred to their insurance agent for further assistance. Those without may be eligible for one or all of the benefit programs.

Whether applying online or by telephone, individuals should have a pen and paper and the following information ready:

- Social Security number;
- Current and pre-disaster address;
- Telephone number for future contact;
- Insurance information;
- Total household annual income;
- Routing and account number from your bank for a direct transfer of funds;
- Description of losses caused by the disaster.

Upon completion of the process, residents will be given a FEMA application number.

Please make a copy of this number for future reference.

Many residents experiencing damage already may have made reports to either the DEM or within the city where they live. **The FEMA process is in addition to this reporting.**

Next Steps

Once filing a FEMA application for assistance, Snohomish County DEM strongly suggests that individuals personally visit a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for a face-to-face interview. FEMA has opened a DRC at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe, which is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There are no Sunday hours.

Residents are strongly encouraged to register with FEMA as soon as possible and visit a DRC following registration.

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