



Media Advisory – Nov. 19. 2008

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County preparation limits flood damage

Snohomish County will report nearly \$500,000 in damages and costs related to flooding last week on the Skykomish, Snohomish and Pilchuck river systems. No damages were reported along the Stillaguamish River.

Damages were reported throughout the county along the Skykomish, Snohomish and Pilchuck rivers but were limited in scale due to early preparation and quick response to rising waters by Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management (DEM), Public Works and other municipal departments.

"Pre-planning and preparation for this flood season have been a top priority for Snohomish County," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "These low damage estimates are proof that work has paid off."

More than \$300,000 in damages and costs were absorbed by governing organizations including Snohomish County, Monroe, Snohomish, Diking District 13 and the Snohomish County Public Utility District. One homeowner reported damages worth about \$150,000, while business damage due to flooding was reported at about \$2,500.

Damage estimates from residents, businesses, utilities and local municipalities are collected to determine whether an area has qualified for state or federal disaster assistance.

To qualify for public assistance, Snohomish County must meet a threshold of approximately \$2.7 million in damages to roads, public buildings and infrastructure. The threshold is based upon a county's population estimate.

Homeowners and businesses that suffered damages but did not report to the DEM are encouraged to do so after contacting their individual insurance provider. The DEM can be reached by calling 425-388-5060.

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