

## **Media Advisory – Jan. 6, 2009**

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### **Flooding expected Wednesday, Thursday on county rivers**

In preparation for mid-week flooding, the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management will staff its emergency operations center beginning Wednesday morning, Jan. 7.

National Weather Service forecasts call for 5 to 10 inches of rain throughout Snohomish County, creating the likelihood of flooding on all major river systems in the county Wednesday night through Thursday evening.

Snow melt during past weeks has inundated soils and could exacerbate conditions.

Residents in low-lying areas – especially those cut off by flood waters in November 2006 and November 2008 – should expect similar conditions. Those residents should prepare accordingly with supplies or consider voluntary evacuation until flood waters recede, which is expected Thursday evening.

The Skykomish River at Gold Bar is forecast to crest above flood stage late Wednesday night followed by crests on the Snohomish River in Monroe and Snohomish on Thursday morning and late afternoon respectively.

The South Fork of the Stillaguamish River near Granite Falls and the North Fork near Arlington are expected to crest above flood stage Wednesday night.

In addition to river flooding, there is risk of rain-induced landslides.

DEM will continue to monitor river conditions until river levels recede.

Should flooding occur, citizens are urged to stay away from rising waters and not to drive through areas of flowing or standing water or around road-closure barriers.

Road flooding should be reported to the municipality where it occurs. Flooding on county roads can be reported to the Public Works Department at 425-388-7500 or [contact.pwrms@snoco.org](mailto:contact.pwrms@snoco.org).

Road closure lists and flood updates can be found at [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org). Additional flooding issues can be reported to Emergency Management at 425-388-5060.

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**Snohomish County  
Department of Emergency Management**

**Flood Tips**

**Before a flood**

- Find out if you live in a flood-prone area and identify where dams are in your area.
- Ask your local emergency manager about official flood warning signals.
- Know the terms Flood Watch, Flash Flood Watch, Flood Warning, Flash Flood Warning and Urban and Small Stream Warning.
- Plan for evacuation.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance.
- Take steps to flood proof your home. Call your local building department or emergency management office for information.
- Keep all insurance policies and your household inventory in a safe place.

**During**

- Listen to radio or television stations for local information.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood suddenly.
- Prepare to evacuate when local authorities issue a flood watch.
- Secure your home. If time permits, also secure items located outside the house.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed.
- Fill your car with fuel.
- Fill the bathtub with water in case the water supply becomes contaminated or services are cut off. Sterilize the bathtub first.
- Permit the flood waters to flow freely into your basement to avoid structural damage to the foundation and the house when deep flooding is likely.

**After**

- Stay away from flood waters. Do not drive through standing water.
- Stay away from moving water. Six inches can easily sweep you off your feet.
- Be aware of where waters have receded and may have weakened road surfaces.
- Stay away from and report downed power lines.
- Stay away from disaster areas unless authorities ask for volunteers.
- Continue listening to the radio for information about where to get assistance.
- Consider health and safety needs. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with flood waters.
- Throw away food that has come in contact with flood waters.
- Call your insurance agent.
- Keep records of all clean-up and repair costs.
- Take photos of or videotape your belongings and your home.
- Don't throw away damaged goods until an official inventory has been taken.

***For more information, call Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management, 425-388-5060.***