

## **Media Advisory – 4:30 p.m., Jan. 9, 2009**

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### **Rivers receding; focus changes to recovery, assessment**

Major rivers continue receding, nearly three days after record flooding swept through Snohomish County.

Roads from Darrington to Monroe have begun to reopen, and county Public Works crews are clearing debris while evaluating damage to infrastructure.

A voluntary evacuation request for residents of Ebey Island has been cancelled as crews continue repairs to a breach in the Ebey Island Slough dike. Snohomish County Diking District No. 1 estimates preliminary repairs should be complete by 1 a.m., Saturday.

Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) will begin transitioning from response to recovery as water levels continue to fall.

Residents and business owners experiencing flooding are encouraged to begin documenting damage. Reports should be made to an individual's insurance company and also may be filed by calling the DEM office at 425-388-5060 or by filling out and returning a damage-assessment form found at [www.snoco.org/departments/emergency\\_management](http://www.snoco.org/departments/emergency_management).

Damage assessment teams from the state and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are expected to arrive Wednesday to begin evaluating damage reports turned in to DEM over the weekend.

Flooding began Wednesday on the Skykomish, Pilchuck, Stillaguamish and Snohomish rivers throughout Snohomish County. Snow melt and heavy rain created conditions similar to floods experienced in November 2006. More than 18 inches of rain fell in some areas of the county between Tuesday and Friday.

As of Friday, the American Red Cross had closed shelters in Arlington and Stanwood. A shelter at the Rock Church in Monroe will remain open until further notice.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon declared a state of emergency Wednesday evening, which will be used to request state and federal assistance for repairs.

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