

Media Advisory – Dec. 24, 2008

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Emergency Management taking weather-related calls

The Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management has opened its emergency operations call center to assist Public Works with weather-related calls.

Residents living in unincorporated Snohomish County with road-plowing or weather-related calls are now asked to call 425-388-5060 for assistance.

Since Dec. 13, county road crews have worked 12-hour shifts around the clock to clear major and minor arterials and will continue to work nonstop through the Christmas holiday. Major and minor arterials will remain their top priority as snowfalls continue during the next 48 hours.

More than 160 county employees have cleared more than 50,000 miles of road lanes during the past 11 days. More than 7,000 tons of sand has been spread across roads and when possible, road crews have applied de-icer to main roads.

This work has kept major roads open, allowing for vehicles to safely pass. All county trucks with plows, graders and sanders will be kept on the roads.

Due to changing conditions and the forecast of more snow this week, it cannot be predicted when crews will be able to reach side roads. Additional snow has created new challenges on roadways already covered with snow.

As permissible, road crews will begin clearing secondary roads and driveway approaches for public agencies including police and fire departments, hospitals and medical clinics.

Residents should not expect private driveway approaches to be cleared.

The county's DEM will coordinate calls for the county's Public Works Department and prioritize roads needing plowing. The county's Human Services Department is working closely with area agencies to maintain normal levels of service. Residents with human service needs are urged to call 211. Only life-threatening emergency calls should be made to 911.

Snow is expected to continue falling through Christmas morning. Residents are encouraged to stay home if possible. Drivers are advised to keep emergency supplies in their vehicles such as a cell phone, water, food, blankets, flash light, a battery-operated radio, shovel, sand, a first-aid kit and emergency flares. Inform family and friends the route you will be taking and when to expect you.

For more information about county roads visit Snohomish County's Web site,
www.snoco.org.

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