• CLIP AND SAVE • • CLIP AND SAVE • • CLIP AND SAVE • • CLIP AND SAVE • • CLIP AND SAVE •

- EMERGENCY FLOOD INSTRUCTIONS -

Eden Valley Rd. at Eden Lane – September 29, 2013

November through March is the typical flood season in Wahkiakum County. As with any potential emergency or disaster situation, there are steps you can take to prepare like plan and prepare now before the event occurs. Be able to take care of yourself and family for three to five days after a disaster strikes.
Read this page, save it for future resource information, and be sure to have the listed emergency and information numbers where they are easily accessible.

There are three primary components to being ready for an emergency including flooding or any natural disaster: **Be informed, Create a Plan, and Build a Kit.**

BE INFORMED

❖ YOU CAN GET INFORMATION FROM:
Wahkiakum County Emergency Info line 795-3911 or 1-877- 795-3910(West End) and you will be able to listen to a recorded message that includes severe weather information, current road conditions and any other important announcements from the Sheriff's Office and Department of Emergency Management (DEM).
•Department of Transportation (Road Info.) 1-800-695-ROAD (7623) or dial 511
•Other Public Services Information: dial: 211

HELPFUL WEB SITES:
• Facebook https://www.facebook.com " Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office" or "Wahkiakum County Department of Emergency Management"
•Grays River Water Levels: http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=pqr&gage=grrw1&view=1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1
•Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office: www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/depts/sheriff/
•Washington State Department of Transportation www.wsdot.wa.gov
•National Weather Service: www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/
•American Red Cross: www.redcross.org/
•Washington State Emergency Management Division: http://emd.wa.gov/
•FEMA: http://www.ready.gov/
• Flood Smart: https://www.floodsmart.gov/

❖ WAYS WE CAN SEND INFO. OUT TO YOU:
•Emergency Community Notification System: This system allows DEM to send recorded messages to residents. All hard wired landline telephone numbers are automatically added to the system. It is VERY IMPORTANT for all residents to register their V.O.I.P. and/or cellular telephones by visiting the DEM website at: http://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/dem.html and click on the "Alert Wahkiakum County" picture or by contacting Wahkiakum DEM.

•NOAA Weather radio network: This network allows Wahkiakum DEM and the National Weather Service to issue urgent and emergent messages through any weather radio that is equipped with tone alert capability and that is monitoring frequency 162.400. These radios are widely available and retailed for around $20. Emergency Management recommends that all businesses and people who live in flood prone areas obtain an NOAA Weather Radio with tone alerts.

National Weather Service terminology used in alert broadcasts:

- FLOOD ADVISORIES - An event could develop in the next 36-72 hours with the possibility of life threatening situations if caution is not exercised.
- FLOOD WATCH - A flood is possible but not certain within the next 12-48 hours. Be alert, monitor NOAA Weather Radio and be prepared to take immediate action if the watch is upgraded to a warning.
- FLOOD WARNING - A severe or dangerous weather event is occurring or is imminent in the next 12 hours. TAKE ACTION NOW!
- CAUTION: Weather reports and historical data are predictions. Each flood event is different and water may take a different course rise more rapidly and to higher levels than in previous years.

•Emergency Alert System: Allows Federal, State and Local Emergency Managers to issue alerts by preempting Cable TV and Radio.

CREATE A PLAN

❖ Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

- ✓ Know the safest route from your home, farm, or business to high, safe ground. Be aware of low-lying areas that flood early and cut off your escape route.
- ✓ Learn where you can safely park your vehicle or equipment.
- ✓ If you are a business owner, devise a plan to protect as much inventory as possible in a short period. This may involve creating temporary shelves or moving inventory to an alternate location.
- ✓ If you have livestock or pets, devise a plan to move them to higher, non-threatened areas before a flood.
- ✓ Establish a family rendezvous location in case of separation.
- ✓ In case of evacuation, arrange for temporary housing in a non-flood area.
- ✓ Set up a neighborhood notification network with consideration for the elderly and handicapped.
- ✓ Know how to turn off utilities (gas, electricity, and water) before evacuation.
- ✓ At flood watch stage consider taking the above actions.
- ✓ Know the flood stages for Elochoman River, Grays River and Deep River.
- ✓ Find out if you live or work in a flood-prone area.
- ✓ For information on flood prone areas, contact Wahkiakum County Building and Planning Department 360-796-3067.

Wahkiakum County Fairgrounds January, 2009
Photo by K. Morgain

BUILD A KIT

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- •Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least five days, for drinking and sanitation
- •Food, at least a five day supply of non-perishable food. Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- •Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- •Flashlight and extra batteries
- •First aid kit with prescription medications
- •Whistle to signal for help
- •Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- •Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- •Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- •Local maps
- •Important Family Documents
- •Include family pet supplies
- We recommend you place a "Kit" in your car as well

For a complete list, contact the Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office D. E. M. or Red Cross

MITIGATION (BEFORE THE FLOOD)

Plan to minimize future losses:
Food proofing: Using materials and practices that will prevent or minimize flood damage In the future.
•Retrofitting: Making changes to an existing house or other building to protect it from flooding or other hazards.
•Elevation: Raising the home above the known height of floodwaters
•Relocation: Moving a house or building to a new location outside the flood hazard area.
•Know where you can obtain sandbags.
The use of sandbags is a simple and effective way to prevent or reduce floodwater damage. Sandbags, when properly filled and placed, can act as a barrier to divert moving water around instead of through buildings. Sandbag construction does not guarantee a watertight seal, but is satisfactory for use in most situations. Sandbags are also used successfully to prevent overtopping of leveled streams and for training current flow to specific areas. Having sandbags filled and in place prior to severe flooding threats may significantly reduce your property damage.

Sandbag supplies are available at:
These supplies are provide to Wahkiakum County residents for emergency use to reduce flood damage.

- Puget Island Fire Dept. 475 SR 409 Cathlamet
- Skamokawa Fire Dept. 33 E. Valley Rd. Skamokawa
- Grays River Fire Dept. 4631 SR 4 West, Rosburg
- District 4 Fire Dept. 703 Elochoman Valley Rd, Cathlamet

Call the DEM Office for information regarding sandbag training.

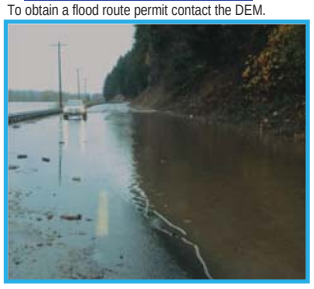
RESPONSE (DURING THE FLOOD)

If this is a rapidly occurring event and you are overtaken by adverse conditions, implement your PLAN at once. During the event, family and possessions should be in a safe place as conditions change. Be prepared to care for yourself and your family for three to five days, Keep an emergency supply kit ready with food, water, medications and clothing to be self-sustaining for at least five days. Monitor weather forecasts from a safe location,
•Move livestock and pets to a safe location during daylight hours.
•Before evacuation, turn off the main gas valve, electrical power at the main power switch, and turn off the water.
•When evacuation becomes necessary, take your emergency supplies kit, including prescription medications to your previously planned temporary house location. If at all possible, EVACUATE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS BEFORE DARK as it is much less hazardous.
•Drive along the safe evacuation route that you have already established.

GRAYS RIVER EMERGENCY FLOOD ROUTE

Grays River Emergency Flood Route

Hancock Forest Management manages the majority of forestlands southwest of K-M. They insist on strict controls regarding when the roads can be opened, and for what purpose.
They included these controls on public use because of their concerns about safety for public travel over primitive roads which are not designed or maintained to a public road standard, and which may have heavy logging traffic. Recently some ownership of these timberlands has changed hands. Therefore, legal agreements with Hancock and others for use of the flood route roads must be frequently re-evaluated. The agreement refers to Phase I and Phase II flooding in the Grays River vicinity.
•For Phase I, the private logging roads are open to emergency vehicles only. No private vehicles will be allowed. Before being opened, the roads must be evaluated by the County to ensure they are in a reasonably safe condition for this type of use, and coordination with the forest management company must occur to identify and notify any active logging sites.
•For Phase II, the private logging roads are open only to members of the public that have permits. Phase II is a rare occurrence when flooding conditions are prolonged over a period of days. For more information and a larger version of the flood route map, visit the Wahkiakum County Emergency Management website at: http://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/dem.html
To obtain a flood route permit contact the DEM.



Mile Post 39.5 on SR 4 – November 19, 2012

RECOVERY (AFTER THE FLOOD)

Re-entering Your Home:
• Check for structural damage that could cause the building to collapse.
• Do not use food or water that has come into contact with contaminated floodwaters.
• Be cautious of potential electrical shorts, live wires, etc. Be careful about turning the power on again.
• Dry your house slowly but thoroughly. You may have to remove carpets or drywall.
Remember that water can be trapped between walls and will not dry. Wash everything that has been wet with bleach in order to remove mold and mildew
• Water should not be pumped out of basements too quickly. This will keep the water pressure inside the same as outside, and help keep basement walls from collapsing. Contact local building inspection office or local building contractors for more information.
• If your home or business has received extensive structural damage, this may be the time to elevate or flood proof the structure.
Transportation Routes: Roads or streets that have been closed for public safety and remain barricaded after floodwaters have receded are officially closed until barricades have been removed. Serious injury or death may occur because of a failure to observe barricades.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES - FLOOD INSURANCE
National Flood Insurance is the only dependable financial protection against flood damage. Federal disaster assistance is available only when there is a federal disaster declaration and seldom covers all flood related losses. For more information, call your insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance at 1-800-427-4661

If you have any emergency or disaster related question contact DEM Coordinator Beau Renfro

BEAU RENFRO
WAHKIAKUM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
64 MAIN STREET
PO BOX 65
CATHLAMET, WA 98612
http://www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us/dem.html
renfrob@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1
PHONE 360/795-3242
OR 360/465-2202
FAX 360/795-3145
CELL 360/957-3724

MARK C. HOWIE
SHERIFF