



Whatcom County Sheriff's Office News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Atmospheric Rivers' and Flood Recovery weekly report Numbers, narrative for week of Dec. 6-10

WHATCOM COUNTY, WA – Whatcom County's response to a series of "atmospheric rivers" in November has transitioned in December to a coordinated recovery effort involving local and state partners from public and volunteer agencies, the private sector and the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (WCSO DEM).

While the impact of historic flooding beginning Nov. 14 is still being assessed, work is already underway to help individuals, their communities and businesses recover. At the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), volunteers are staffing finance, logistics, operations, planning, and public information branches.

Additionally, on Dec. 3, representatives from the Human Services branch of WCSO DEM, small cities, the Small Business Development Center, county departments and state Commerce and Emergency Management met to establish a Recovery Task Force. The group will focus on connecting flood-impacted individuals, businesses and communities with resources.

Related other ongoing recovery efforts include:

- Donations – Whatcom Community Foundation (Resilience Fund)
 - Contributions (through Dec. 9) – \$1,600,000 received from individuals, businesses, agencies and others
 - Funds distributed for direct assistance (through Dec. 9) – more than \$1,200,000
 - Call Center (360/788-5303) – staffed with both English and Spanish speakers 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (message recording 24/7)

(More)

- Resource information for businesses – Small Business Development Center resource page

Flooding-related numbers, as of Dec. 10:

- Number of structures impacted – nearly 1,900 reported damage
- Number of persons in shelter – 98
- Number of persons requesting shelter (since Nov. 14) – 147
- Damage assessment reports – 1,101 from individuals, 73 from businesses
- Whatcom County roads (reported by County Public Works) – 17 had been closed
- Whatcom County landslides (reported by Washington Geological Survey) – 35
- Clean-up weekend volunteers – 1,200

The Human Services branch and the Recovery Task Force, as well as partner agencies throughout Whatcom County and Washington State providing services for those impacted by flooding will remain active into 2022. Those interested in helping support recovery directly may contact the Whatcom Volunteer Center or consider donating to the Whatcom Community Foundation Resiliency Fund.

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