

# WSDOT

## A Little Emergency Help Between Friends

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Washington State Department of Transportation  
Emergency Operations Manager

### **Paula Hammond**

Secretary of Transportation

### **Chris Christopher**

Director, Maintenance Operations

Tribal State Conference  
October 3, 2012

# Agenda

- WSDOT's Emergency Operations
- Resources
- Agreements
- Communications
- Lessons Learned
- Disaster Planning
- Paying for Disasters – Federal Funding

# WSDOT HQ Emergency Operations Center



# WSDOT HQ

## Emergency Operations Center

- Gain situational awareness
- Establish a common operational picture
- Brief executives
- External Communication - Public
- Identify needs
- Coordinate resources
- Policy decisions

# WSDOT

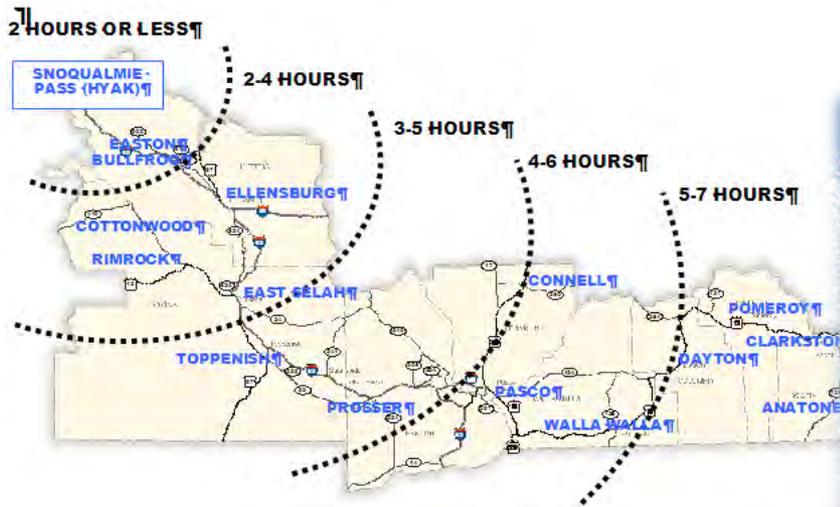
## Office of Emergency Management

- Responsibility for planning and responding to all disasters, whether man-made or natural.
- Maintains and prepares the EOC
- Exercise and Training Program
- Continuity of Operations
- Aviation Search and Rescue

# Resources

- Intra-agency
- Interagency

Who has what is needed?



# Resources...

- More than 14,000 items in inventory.
  - highway maintenance vehicles and equipment, motor vehicles, and a variety of supporting equipment
- 32 vehicle service and repair facilities throughout the state
- 130 vehicle fuel stations throughout the state

# Memorandums of Understanding

- WA State Patrol
- Dept. Natural Resources
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Puget Sound Energy



# Public Works Emergency Response Mutual Aid Agreement

- Make the most efficient use of assets by coordinating resources and maximize funding reimbursement during disasters/emergencies

## AGREEMENT

### PUBLIC WORKS EMERGENCY RESPONSE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the purpose of this pre-disaster agreement between the agencies is to provide for immediate assistance to protect life and property;

WHEREAS, this Agreement is authorized under State of Washington, RCW's 35 (City), 36 (County), 38.52 (Emergency Management), 39.34 (Interlocal Agreement) and 47 (Public Highway Transportation (DOT)); which is activated only in the event of a proclamation of an emergency by the local and/or state government approving authority;

WHEREAS, the agency asking for assistance from any signatory agency will herein be referred to as the Requesting Agency;

WHEREAS, the signatory agency agreeing to assist another signatory agency asking for

# Purpose Mutual Aid Agreement

- Enables coordination of resources
- Maximizes funding reimbursement
- Allows agencies to support each other when the event is beyond the capabilities
- Provides ability for immediate response to the Requesting Agency provided the Responding Agency has the necessary resources and expertise available.

# Exercises

- Internal within WSDOT
- External with federal, state, tribal and local agencies or jurisdictions



# Public Communication Resiliency

- WSDOT Web Site
- Flickr
- WSDOT Media Alerts
- WSDOT Freight Alerts
- Twitter
- WSDOT Blog

## WSDOT Freight Update: I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass is OPEN

WSDOT Freight

To:

Washington State Department of Transportation – Truck and Freight System Alert  
February 10, 2008, 12:30 a.m.

## I-90 reopens over Snoqualmie Pass; White Pass (US 12) and Stevens Pass

I-90 SNOQUALMIE loads are prohibit slushy road condit back-ups and conge dissipate. Anticipat roadway conditions since Thursday due work.

Washington State Department of Transportation – News

South Central Region – P.O. Box 12560 – Yakima, WA 98909

January 29, 2008  
8 p.m.

Contacts: Mike Westbay, 509.577.1617 (Yakima)  
Meagan McFadden, 509.654.0697 (Snoqualmie Pass)

## Avalanche threat keeps I-90 Snoqualmie Pass closed until Wednesday morning

HYAK – Snoqualmie Pass will remain closed until early Wednesday as crews continue to battle heavy snow. Avalanche crews are going home to get some much needed rest after 18 straight hours of working. They will return in the early morning hours Wednesday to continue triggering avalanches and attempting to make the pass safe for travel.

flickr

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wsdot's photostream pro

Collections Sets Tags Archives Favorites Profile

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot>



SR 202 - SR 520 to Sahalee...  
14 photos



SR 539, Guide Meridian ...  
38 photos



SR 20 Sharpes Corner...  
4 photos



Dungeness Line Ribbon Cutting  
29 photos



Sc Fr St  
10 photos

## Travel Alerts and Slowdowns

[Printer-friendly version](#)

### HIGH IMPACT

Highway 99 - Closed on Highway 99 from 117th St to 134th St since 7:00 AM, 12/21/07 until further notice  
From milepost to milepost 2 [More](#)

twitter



Hey there! wsdot is using Twitter.

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people using the web, your phone, or IM. **Join today** to start receiving wsdot's updates.

**Join today!**

Already using Twitter via SMS or IM? Finish signing up.

<http://twitter.com/wsdot>

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# Public Messaging

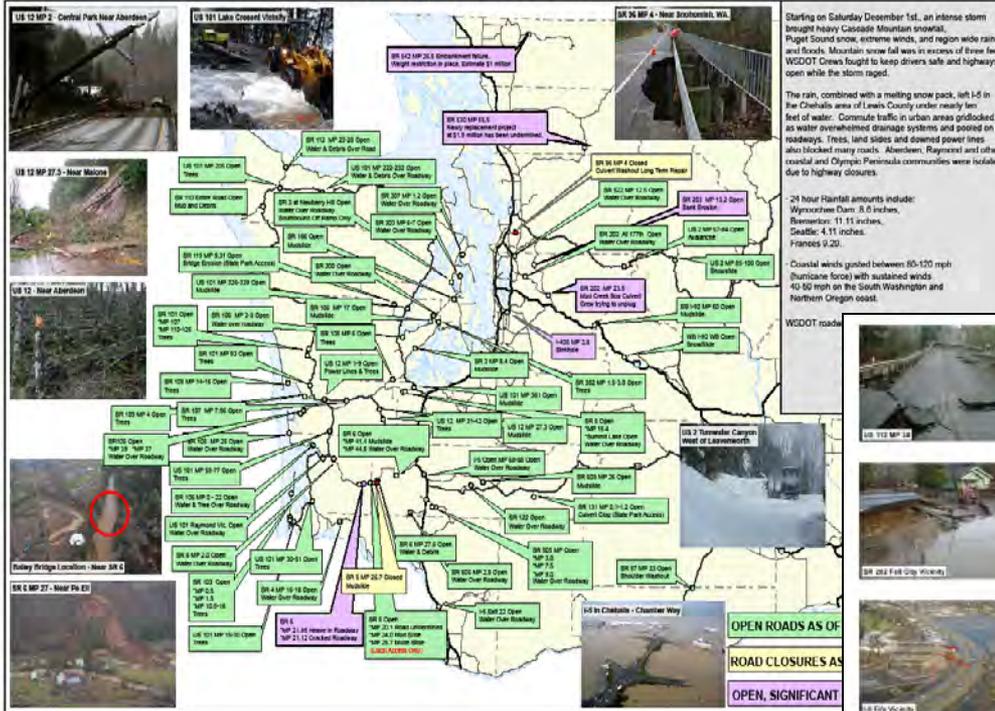
- Our focus is on communicating road conditions
- Real time info/updates on website:  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic)

Washington State Travel Alerts



# Lessons Learned

## DECEMBER 2007 STORM (Monday 12/19/07 Update)



Starting on Saturday December 1st, an intense storm brought heavy Cascade Mountain snowfall, Puget Sound snow, extreme winds, and region wide rain and floods. Mountain snow fall was in excess of three feet. WSDOT Crews fought to keep drivers safe and highways open while the storms raged.

The rain, combined with a melting snow pack, left 1-5 in the Chelan area of Inland County under nearly ten feet of water. Commute traffic in urban areas gridlocked as water overwhelmed drainage systems and pooled on roadways. Trees, land slides and downed power lines also blocked many roads. Aberdeen, Raymond and other coastal and Olympic Peninsula communities were isolated due to highway closures.

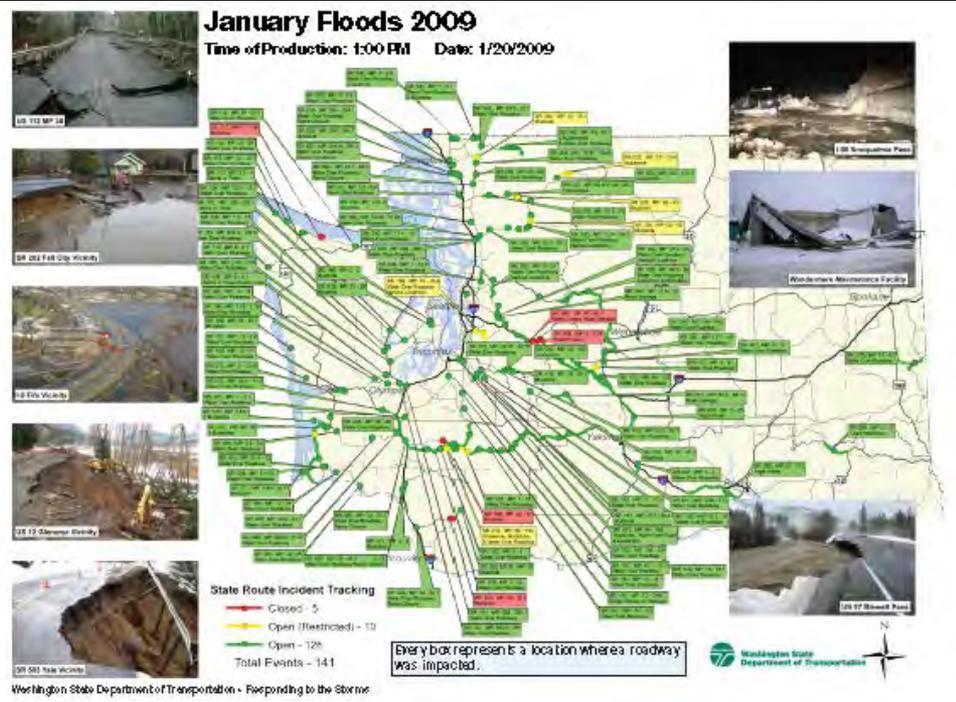
24 hour Rainfall amounts include:  
 Wynonah Dam: 8.0 inches,  
 Rossmore: 11.11 inches,  
 Oculife: 4.11 inches,  
 Frances: 9.20.

Coastal winds gusted between 60-120 mph (hurricane force) with sustained winds 40-60 mph on the South Washington and northern Oregon coast.

WSDOT roads

## January Floods 2009

Time of Production: 1:00 PM Date: 1/20/2009



# Winter 07 - 08



Lewis County Flooding



Lewis County landslide



Snoqualmie Avalanche Ops



2008 12 23

**Dec 2008: Rockslide SR-112 Neah Bay**



**Jan 2009: SR 112 - Clallam County**



**Dec 25, 2009: WSDOT Spokane Facility**



**2 South bound  
lanes**

**1 North bound  
lane**

**are underwater**

**Jan 2009: I-5 - Fife Curve**



**Jan 2010: SR 97 - Blewett Pass**



**Oct 2009: SR 410 – Nile Valley Slide**

# Disaster Planning

## Chehalis River Basin and I-5





**Local Traffic Only  
Trucks over 10,000  
GVW Prohibited**

**Secondary Route  
2 Lane Mountain  
Pass Highway**

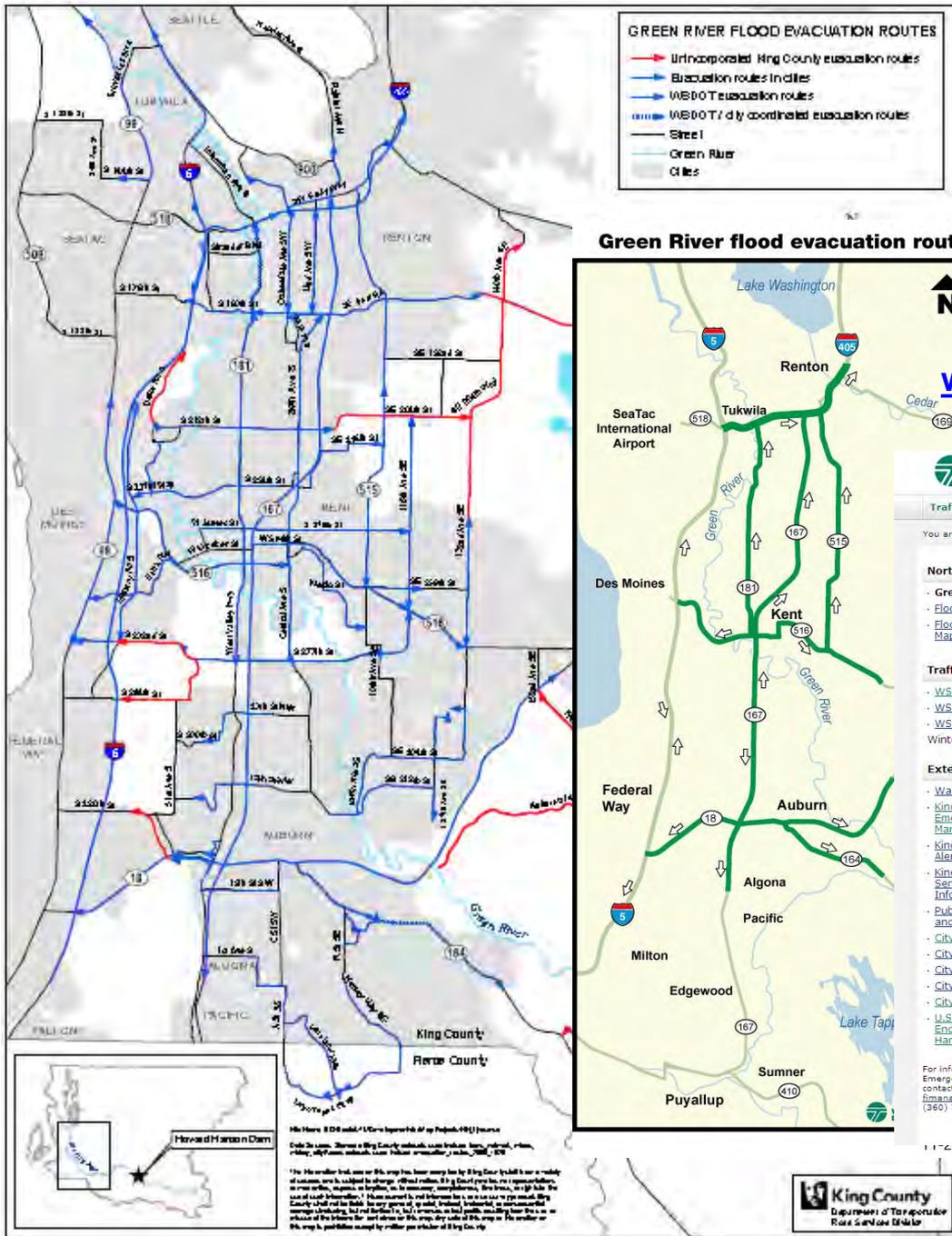
**Primary Truck Route**

**Closure Area**

# Disaster Planning

## Green River Valley





- Coordinated Evacuation Maps with King Co.
- Established External web page

Green River flood evacuation routes



[www.wsdot.wa.gov/northwest/greenriver/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/northwest/greenriver/)

**Washington State Department of Transportation**

Traffic & Cameras | Projects | Business | Environment | Maps & Data | Search

You are here: Home > Northwest > Green River Valley Flood Information

**Northwest**

- Green River Flood
- Flood Protection
- Flood Information Map

**Traffic information**

- WSDOT Traffic
- WSDOT Newsroom
- WSDOT Twitter
- Winter weather

**External links**

- Washington EMD
- King County Emergency Management
- King County Road Alerts
- King County Flood Services and Information
- Public Health - Seattle and King County
- City of Auburn
- City of Kent
- City of Renton
- City of Seattle
- City of Tukwila
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Howard Hanson Dam)

**Green River Valley Flood Information**

**News and Updates**

**November 2009**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reduced the threat level for Green River flooding from a 1 in 3 chance to a 1 in 25 chance.

The lead agencies for flood preparations are [King County Office of Emergency Management](#), the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), and the [Washington Emergency Management Division](#).

**WSDOT is working to keep drivers and the economy moving in the event of Green River Valley flooding.**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently reduced the risk threat of flooding along the Green River from 1 in 3 to 1 in 25. The grout curtain in place appears to be effective. While this is great news, WSDOT will continue to move forward with plans and preparations for the worst case scenario.

Water released from the dam could flood the valley, including state highways in Tukwila, Renton, Kent and Auburn.

- WSDOT is working with federal, state and local agencies on coordinated information and evacuation plans.
- During any emergency, we make plans to maintain and operate the highway system.
- Once floodwaters recede, we remove debris and repair roadway damage.

**Getting prepared before a flood**

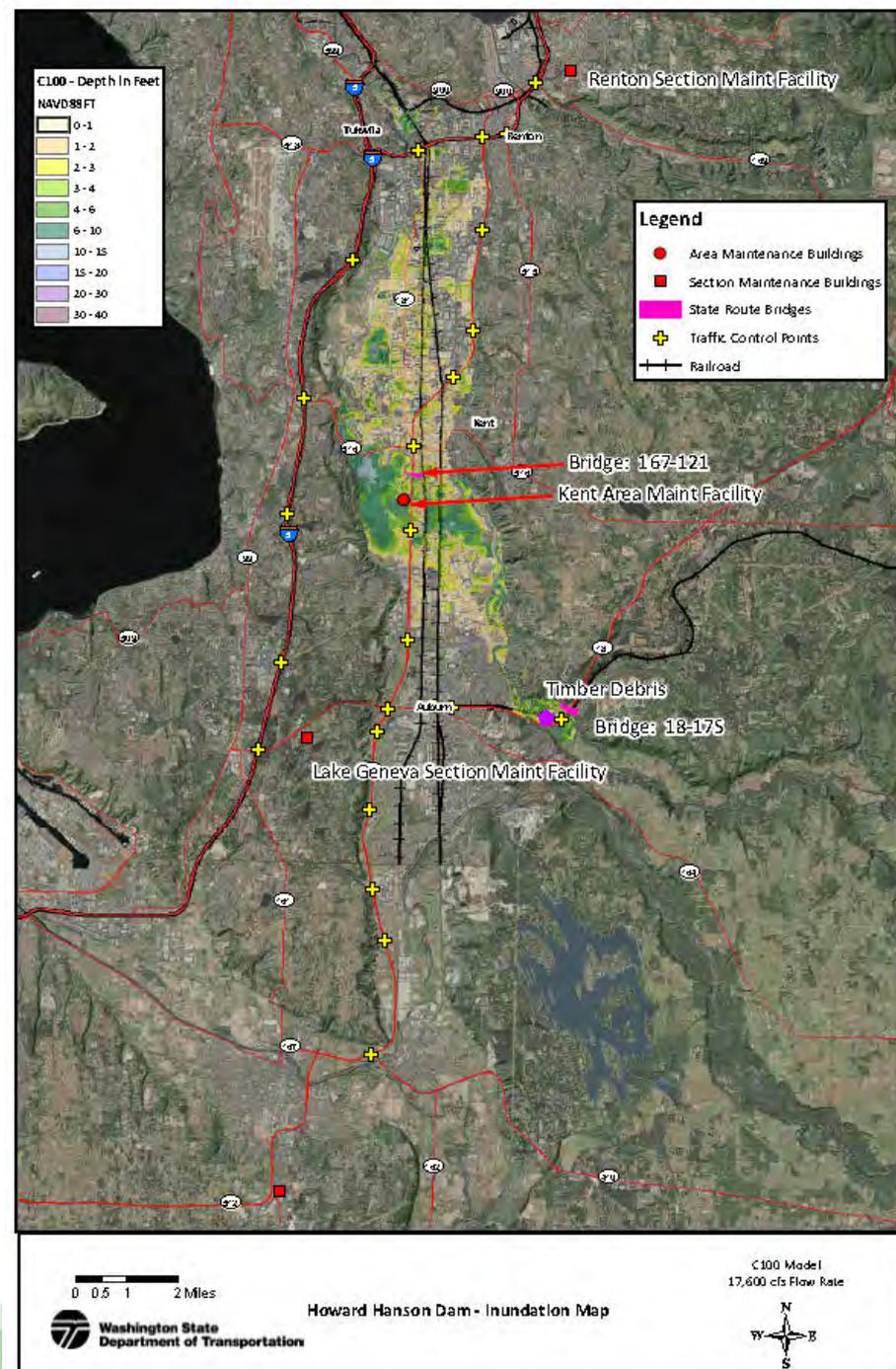


Howard Hanson Dam at Green River



# Traffic Management - Evacuation Plan

- Identified 30 potential traffic control points
- Many potential scenarios
- Coordinated operations with WSP to rapidly implement plan
- Manage traffic on surrounding routes to aid evacuation



# Emergency Funding

- Federal Highways Administration
  - Emergency Relief Program
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - Public Assistance
  - Fire Management Assistance Grant
  - Hazard Mitigation

# **Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO)**



**U.S. Department of Transportation**  
**Federal Highway Administration**  
August 2012

# Questions

Columbia River

Moses Lake -

Snake River

Pasco

Kennewick

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