

11/24/2021 3:00 PM



Whatcom County Sheriff's Office News Release

Bill Elfo

Sheriff

[\(360\)778-6605](tel:(360)778-6605)

Doug Chadwick

Undersheriff

[\(360\)778-6618](tel:(360)778-6618)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021

Contact: Marie Duckworth, PIO

Phone: (360) 603-1103

Email: EOC_PIOFlood2021@whatcomcounty.us

AGENCIES CLOSELY MONITORING UPCOMING STORM SYSTEMS

PUBLIC WORKS BEGINS REPAIR OF DAMAGED LEVEE AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHATCOM COUNTY, WA - Officials across all branches of Whatcom County government are closely monitoring a series of storms that are forecasted to affect our region starting tonight, Wednesday, Nov. 24, and continuing through next week.

At this time the Nooksack River is forecast to crest just over flood stage at Cedarville and Ferndale. These forecasts change frequently, check the Whatcom County Public Works [River Forecast Webpage](#) for updates. It is important to remember that weather forecasts can and do change as computer models gather additional information. As such, this is a good opportunity to ensure your household and your vehicle is fully stocked and prepared for inclement weather. It is a time to prepare, not a time to panic.

Existing storm drains, ditches and retention ponds remain at or near capacity from the previous storm system, and soils are saturated. These conditions increase the possibility of surface and street flooding, standing water, and other water-related flooding events. Public Works employees are on call and ready to respond during the holiday weekend if any additional flooding occurs. Saturated soils also increase the likelihood of landslides or mudslides. If you live in a slide-prone area, please monitor the area and call 911 if you believe a slide is occurring or has occurred.

(more...)

11/24/2021 3:00 PM

Important Tips to Remember:

- Call 911 to report any flood-related emergencies. 911 operators have the ability to dispatch Public Works crews, in addition to other first responders such as police and fire departments.
- call 911 if you believe a landslide has occurred or is occurring.
- Respect all Road Closed signs.
- Follow trusted sources of information. There are rumors that share inaccurate information. Please utilize the following sites as trusted sources of information:
 - <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/flood>, the Whatcom County Government webpage for flood-related information.
 - [Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page](#).
 - Official webpages and social media pages for our cities, including [Ferndale](#), [Lynden](#), [Sumas](#), [Everson](#).
 - [Whatcom County Public Works road closures and restrictions webpage](#).
 - WSDOT [road impacts map](#).
 - National Weather Service [local area forecast \(customizable\)](#).

PUBLIC WORKS INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENTS AND REPAIRS CONTINUE

Preliminary damage assessments are complete for most of the county's critical public works infrastructure. Approximately 62 damage sites were found that impacted the county's levees, roads, or bridges.

Bridges: All Whatcom County bridges have been assessed. No structural damage was found.

Roads: All arterials and 80-percent of the county's major and minor collector roads, and 50-percent of minor county roads have been inspected. Whatcom County Public Works is working on major repairs to Birch Bay Lynden, Northwest, Drayton Harbor, Goshen, North Fork, Silver Lake, South Pass, Sunset, and Beach roads. Crews will reopen these roads as soon as possible. No reopening dates have been set at this time. [Check the road closures and restrictions list for updates](#).

(more...)

11/24/2021 3:00 PM

Levees: Levees: All major levees have been inspected. Three levees breached and the US Army Corps of Engineers is working on emergency repairs. Those are Twin View (in Everson), Timon (near Lynden), and Rainbow Slough (on the Lummi Peninsula). A breach in the Marine Drive levee may cause more frequent flooding of Marine Drive, Slater Road and potentially Haxton Way. Backslope damage also occurred on the Lynden Levee and Polinder Levee and interim measures have been taken to reduce the potential for additional damage. The City of Ferndale has also taken interim measures to reduce the risk of additional riprap damage on a portion of the Ferndale Levee.

Stormwater Systems: County stormwater systems and key public outfalls have been inspected. Several systems were damaged and will be repaired as soon as possible. Two systems at Coronado and Cottonwood Court were damaged and will be repaired.

IN CONCLUSION

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, along with Whatcom County Public Works and other first responder agencies, remain on call for emergency repairs and response over the long holiday weekend, and to respond to any additional flooding or landslide issues.

Flood Impact Resources

- To report flood-related damage, regardless of whether or not this is covered by insurance, call 360-788-5311.
- The community flood meeting is today, Wednesday, Nov. 24, starting at 6pm. Get more information, and submit questions in advance at www.whatcomcounty.us/flood Community Meeting information and link.
- [Read more about the steps to receive state and federal assistance.](#)