



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

Friday, Dec. 3, 2021

Contact: Marie Duckworth, PIO

Phone: (360) 603-1103

Email: E0C_PIOFlood2021@whatcomcounty.us

With flood recovery efforts underway, Whatcom County preliminary damage estimates are at least \$50 Million Businesses, residents should continue to report losses

WHATCOM COUNTY, WA – Following a series of “atmospheric rivers” in November that delivered record-breaking rainfall totals in Whatcom County, officials are continuing to assess flood damages and begin work on recovery.

RECOVERY TASK FORCE

On Friday, Dec. 3, representatives from Whatcom County’s small cities, county government, local business assistance groups, social service agencies and the ongoing flood response effort, established the Flood Recovery Task Force. The Task Force was briefed by mayors, county experts and state agencies on flooding impacts and recovery needs and resources.

John Gargett, deputy director of the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office Division of Emergency Management (WCSO DEM), reported that approximately 1,400 homes and structures countywide reported damage so far, with impacts to public infrastructure, businesses and private property currently estimated at approximately \$50 million.

“This is the largest, most impactful natural disaster to hit Whatcom County since its founding in 1854,” said Gargett. “This disaster that has no historical comparison and has touched every corner of Whatcom County in addition to the impacts in Skagit County and British Columbia.”

Whatcom County Public Works has begun repairs to roads that were damaged during November’s floods. [Read a detailed update on each closed road at this link.](#)

(More...)

The Emergency Operations Center's Human Services Branch is coordinating shelter for around 40 individuals. More individuals may seek shelter in the coming days with forecasts indicating snow in north Whatcom County through early next week.

The Recovery Task Force will address a range of long-term needs, including: developing short-term emergency shelter and longer-term transitional housing options, as well as increasing concerns such as childcare, transportation, and mental health resources.

RESOURCES

- Renters, home owners, and those who lost vehicles or other property in the flooding (regardless of whether or not they have insurance) are asked to use the [online damage assessment form](#) or phone (360) 788-5311 as soon as possible. Messages left at this number will be returned.
- For other flood-related needs, including shelter, phone the Call Center at (360) 788-5303. The Call Center is staffed 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and includes Spanish-speaking call-takers.

###