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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

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Contact: John Gargett, Deputy Director, WCSO Division of Emergency Management

Phone: (360) 778-7160

Email: JGargett@co.whatcom.wa.us

FLOOD RECOVERY CONTINUES

Joint Local/State Individual Assistance Teams Begin Field Assessments Monday

WHATCOM COUNTY, WA – To expedite the road to recovery for those whose lives were devastatingly impacted by the recent flooding, Individual Assistance Specialists from the [Emergency Management Division of the Washington State Military Department](#) will be coming to Whatcom County on Monday, November 22. These specialists will join local Whatcom County Officials to conduct detailed inspections of the hardest-hit areas affected by the November Floods. These inspections will be held Monday, November 22- Wednesday, November 24.

This is the critical first step in the normal protocol of formally assessing the level of damage and the dollar impact. There will be two Local/State teams made up of three individuals from the State and two from local governments. The teams will gather data to determine the level of impact to help justify the request for an Individual Assistance Declaration from [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#). The teams will be validating and confirming the data that communities have already collected as well as evaluating additional damages which have yet to be reported. The information collected includes estimates on loss and damage of both structural and personal property throughout Whatcom County.

The teams will get an official briefing in the Whatcom County Emergency Operations Center Monday morning before visiting areas of Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas.

Residents do not need to meet with the inspectors, however, should be aware these teams could be on and around their property.

Damaged private property or businesses may have already been visited by the local teams. That information is being used as the basis for performing further assessments. If people are unsure whether their property has been assessed, or have not yet reported damages, they should call 360.788.5311 and leave their name, address, and type of damage.

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