



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. 17, 2021

Contact: Amy Cloud

Phone: (360) 318-4356

Email: accloud@cob.org

Whatcom County flood recovery weekly report Numbers, narrative for week of Dec. 13-17

WHATCOM COUNTY, WA – Whatcom County residents, businesses and governmental agencies continue to clear out debris and clean up after flooding that began in November with several atmospheric rivers (<https://www.noaa.gov/stories/what-are-atmospheric-rivers>). The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (WCSO DEM), as lead response agency, has transitioned to support more long-term flood recovery work.

A Recovery Task Force (RTF) has formed with representatives from the WSCO DEM and partner agencies such as Western Washington University's Small Business Development Center, the Port of Bellingham, the county Health Department, the cities of Sumas, Everson, Nooksack, Lynden and Ferndale, and state Commerce and Emergency Management departments.

The RTF, working in partnership with the WCSO DEM Human Services branch, is focused on: assistance for individuals (including food and temporary housing); business support (including technical resources); and guidance for municipalities and governmental agencies.

Ongoing recovery efforts include:

- Call Center (360/788-5303) – staffed with both English and Spanish speakers 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (message recording 24/7) for information on temporary housing and other support
- Resources for flood-impacted businesses – Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Flood-damaged debris drop-off – open through Dec. 31 (closed Christmas Day)
- Hands-on help for those impacted by flooding offered by Samaritan's Purse – logged 6,596 volunteer hours here as of Dec. 15 (<https://samaritanspurse.org/article/serving-the-flood-weary-in-washington-in-jesus-name/>) and Team Rubicon (33 volunteers on-site as of Dec. 13)

(More)

Flooding-related numbers, as of Dec. 16:

- Number of flood-impacted homes and structures – approximately 1,200
- Four local agencies arranging shelter – [Catholic Community Service](#), [North Sound Accountable Community of Health](#), the [Opportunity Council](#) and county Health Department
- Number of individuals who've received shelter – 183 (in 54 households, youngest 6 months old)
- Whatcom County roads impacted – 73 (some roads damaged in several locations)
- Flood-related landslides (reported by Washington Geological Survey) – approximately 80-100
- Busiest day at flood debris drop-off site – Nov. 27 (47 loads), Dec. 13 (43 loads)

Key sources of information:

- www.whatcomcounty.us/flood is a central resource
- SBDC flood webpage - <https://sbdc.wvu.edu/flood-relief-resources-businesses/>
- Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/WhatcomSheriff/>
- Congressman DelBene flood recovery resources - <https://delbene.house.gov/constituent-services/flooding-resources.htm>

The Human Services branch and the Recovery Task Force, as well as partner agencies throughout Whatcom County and the state that are 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 Resilience Fund.

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