



Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

News Release

Bill Elfo
Sheriff

(360)778-6605

Doug Chadwick
Undersheriff

(360)778-6618

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Contact: Deb Slater, WCSO PIO

(360)927-4838, dslater@co.whatcom.wa.us

SUSPECTED ICE BUILD-UP IN MOUTH OF RIVER CAUSES FLOODING

Six evacuated from Marietta

Whatcom County, WA – While most of Whatcom County slept early Christmas morning, members from the Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (DEM) coordinated with patrol deputies to notify residents in the Marietta area of probable and recommended evacuation due to a combination of ice building up at the mouth of the Nooksack River and King Tides. A short time later, water began to enter homes and cover the roadway on Marine Drive. A coordinated response by Whatcom County Public Works, Sheriff's Deputies, Search and Rescue volunteers and What-Comm dispatch was able to safely evacuate and rescue six residents and five dogs via boat. The Red Cross is providing temporary shelter for two of the residents; the other four are sheltered with family or friends. The Whatcom Humane Society is kenneling the dogs.

"These rescue efforts demonstrate the close coordination that occurs between emergency management staff, patrol deputies, Public Works, What-Comm dispatchers and search and rescue volunteers to assist our residents during times of disaster," said Whatcom County Undersheriff Doug Chadwick. "We are grateful for our dedicated first responders and Search and Rescue volunteers from Summit to Sound and the Whatcom County 4x4 Unit that quickly took lifesaving actions to rescue members of the community."

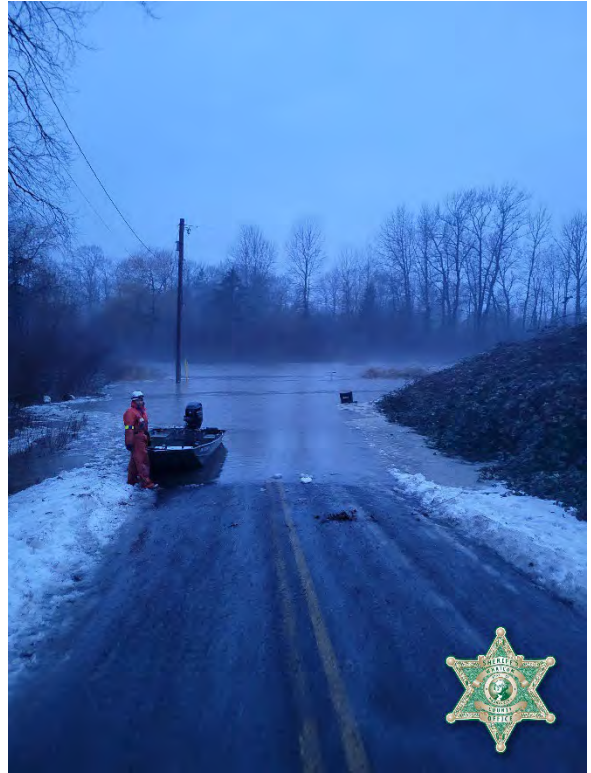
Additional storm systems are predicted over the next several days. Whatcom County authorities continue to meet daily to monitor developments and to prepare. These meetings are coordinated by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office DEM. The DEM will be issuing updates as needed as well as posting to the [Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Facebook page](#).

The following sites can aid in awareness:

- National Weather Service:
<https://www.weather.gov/sew/#>
<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=sew> (blue dots lead to river gauge information)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:
<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/noaatidepredictions.html?id=9449424&legacy=1>
- Northwest Avalanche Center:
<https://nwac.us>
- Sign up for [AlertSense](#)

(photos follow)

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office is located at 311 Grand Avenue in Bellingham, Washington.
Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm



Photos courtesy Ryan Johnson

###

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office is located at 311 Grand Avenue in Bellingham, Washington.
Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm