



Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEADLINE TO REPORT WEATHER DAMAGE IS FRIDAY, JAN. 6

DEM-LED COUNTY RESPONSE MOVES TOWARD RECOVERY

Whatcom County, WA – The deadline to report December's weather-related damage that occurred within Whatcom County is this Friday, Jan. 6. In accordance with Whatcom County's Emergency Proclamation, individuals and businesses should report damage received as the result of winter storms between Dec. 18 and Dec. 28, 2022.

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (WCSO DEM) has asked that any Whatcom County resident who experienced damage due to heavy snow, freezing rain or subsequent flooding is asked to report their damage using the online forms found here:

whatcomcounty.us/reportdamage (forms are available in both English and Spanish.)

Submitting damage assessments help support the County's request for aid from Washington State and the federal government. Damage assessment is the first step in the process of requesting, and hopefully receiving, financial support from state or federal agencies. There is no guarantee Whatcom County will receive any federal or state aid; however, damage reports combine to demonstrate need and count toward the state and federal assistance threshold. (For help with the forms, phone 360/676-6681.)

Since the storms that began mid-December, WCSO DEM has been leading a county-wide, collaborative response that includes:

- [Successful evacuations from Marietta](#), including pets, via WCSO patrol deputies and search and rescue volunteers from Summit to Sound and Whatcom County 4x4;
- Whatcom County Public Works, surveying tide gates at Sandy Point;
- Red Cross shelter established for four nights;
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) who, in addition to tending to the levee near Slater Road, supplied materials for 2,500 sandbags for Sandy Point and the Nooksack Tribal area;

(more)

- Support from Lummi Nation, Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA), Whatcom Humane Society, and the City of Bellingham; and
- Arranging and contracting a local pumping company to pump out the Sandy Point Fire Station 17.

“We appreciate the quick response and coordination by our emergency management staff to meet the rapidly evolving needs of community members during these severe weather events,” stated Whatcom County Undersheriff Doug Chadwick. “This response would not have been possible without the assistance of many local resources, as well as our tribal, state and federal partners.”

WCSO DEM continues to staff weather response and recovery efforts. Visit the [Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Facebook](#) page for more information.

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