

Press Release

Now that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has transitioned to a recovery phase after the recent flooding, there will be a concerted effort by Kittitas County and local cities to inspect structures for damage from the recent flood event and landslides.

Kittitas County Community Development Services building inspectors are currently working throughout the County to conduct safety inspections of damaged structures.

Immediately after a disaster, the exact locations, extent, and nature of building damage may be uncertain. Prior to sending evaluation teams into the field, the County staff reviewed information provided by the Kittitas County Department of Public Works staff and other emergency crews that were in the field during the flood event. These staff and crews provided the list of priority regions that will be evaluated first along the main river and stream drainages throughout the County.

If you reside within an unincorporated area of Kittitas County and have received damage to a structure from the recent flooding or mudslides, please call the Kittitas County Community Development Services (CDS) and schedule an inspection at (509) 962-7506. If you reside within one of the following incorporated cities: Ellensburg, Cle-Elum, South Cle-Elum, Roslyn or Kittitas, please call the appropriate agency in your city for information relating to the flood event.

There will be 4-5 teams of CDS inspectors traveling throughout the County during this coming week. Inspectors will assess the condition of structures during a relatively quick inspection and post the building if there are any restrictions. For those buildings that are heavily impacted, a more thorough inspection can be completed at a later date as needed.

Be aware, there are may be many hazards present in and, around, structures after a flood event or mudslide. Use caution when entering a damaged structure. Use caution around standing water, electrical equipment and gas appliances. Visit the County website for previous "public safety announcements" concerning hazards caused by flood damage <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/>. The following FEMA website is a good resource for information about recovering from and coping with flood damaged property <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/coping.shtm/>.

Please report all damage to businesses and primary residential structures on the County Website and enter the information at <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/>. It is very important that all damage be estimated and reported in order to meet the threshold for receiving federal disaster assistance funds if they become available. Estimates can be made by the homeowner; detailed estimates from a contractor are not required. The forms must be filled out no later than Tuesday January 21, 2009 by 5PM. Only damages to residences and businesses, including personal property inside, can be counted. Garages or outbuildings cannot be included in the estimate.

*Important! If you have damages caused by the recent flooding and mudslides you should also contact your insurance company to start their own processes. The assessment forms are not a substitute for property damage claims through your property insurer and you should contact your insurance company immediately to report your personal and property losses.

If you have any questions contact the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office at 962-7525.