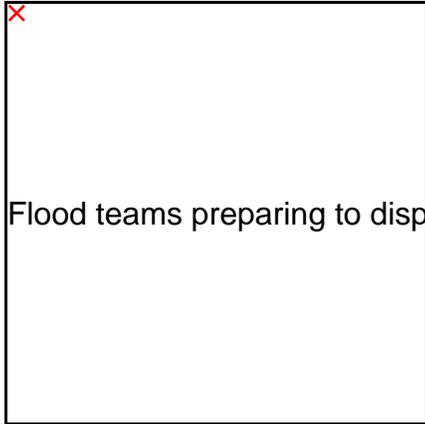


## Flood teams preparing to dispatch to Nooksack and Skagit rivers



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SEATTLE - Approximately 19 Army Corps flood team members are preparing to dispatch to the Skagit and Nooksack rivers to provide assistance to counties in the wake of heavy rains today.

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has also activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate all Corps activities.

The Nooksack River was reported to be 4 feet and the Skagit River 2 feet above flood stage at approximately 8 a.m. The rivers continue to rise in the west and are expected to remain above flood stage until late Saturday afternoon. Then rivers are expected to recede throughout the region through the rest of the weekend.

The Corps has reduced area river flows by operating dams belonging to utilities - Ross, Upper Baker and Wynoochee. The Reservoir Control Center answers public inquiries at 206-764-6702.

Public Law 84-99 (33 USCA 701n) authorizes the Corps of Engineers to engage in flood fighting and rescue operations. Local officials may request Corps assistance through county and state officials if the emergency is beyond state and local capabilities. Flood fighting may include temporarily raising the height of levees with sandbags; strengthening flood control works with armor rock; evacuating people and livestock when necessary; providing equipment and supplies, such as pumps, sandbags, plastic sheeting, etc.; providing 24-hour technical assistance during the event; and removing logs and debris.