

Emergency flood teams reactivated to Nooksack and Skagit rivers

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SEATTLE - 23 Corps of Engineers flood team members were reactivated to the Skagit and Nooksack rivers today as a new storm brings heavy rains to the area.

The Corps has distributed more than 60,000 sandbags since Friday and the flood teams are assessing the rivers as well as providing technical assistance. The Corps teams are hiring equipment to help haul sand, gravel and rock as necessary.

The two Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, flood teams will be on site around the clock and the Emergency Operations Center will remain open to coordinate all Corps activities.

The Skagit River at Concrete reported to be 2 feet above flood stage as of 4pm. The Nooksack River is approaching flood stage at Deming. The rivers continue to rise in the west and are expected to well exceed flood stages.

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.

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