

Army Corps of Engineers sends flood teams to assist local governments in western Washington

CONTACT: Patricia Graesser 206-764-3760, cell 206-229-7087

SEATTLE -- The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, activated its reservoir control center Nov. 11 for 24-hour operation and has flood fight teams out in three western Washington river basins today.

Flood teams have deployed to the Snohomish and Skagit river basins and the Olympic Peninsula and are prepared to assist counties as requested in flood fighting operations. Teams are also on alert for the Chehalis, Nooksack, Green and Puyallup river basins.

The reservoir control center is managing flood control operations for dams on the White, Green, Skagit and Wynoochee rivers.

According to Paul Komoroske, chief of Emergency Management at the Corps' office in downtown Seattle, besides the rising river levels, the incoming storm brings debris with it that can affect levees, block drainages and cause roads and areas to flood.

"The Corps has an experienced team of emergency responders that assist in floods and natural disasters," Komoroske said.

Public Law 84-99 enables the Corps to assist state and local authorities in flood fight activities and cost share in the repair of flood protection structures. The purpose is to prevent loss of life and minimize property damage associated with severe weather.

For more information on the Corps, and up-to-date river forecasts, go to [www.nws.usace.army.mil](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil) and click on Rivers and Reservoirs. Lake and river information is available at: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/>

Private citizens seeking sandbags should contact their local government offices.

The National Weather Service issues flood watches and warnings and should be consulted for that information.