

Army Corps of Engineers working 24/7 for reservoir control operation and flood response

Contact: Public Affairs 206-764-3750 or the Information Line for recorded updates at 1-866-596-2635

SEATTLE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Reservoir Control Center began 24-hour operation Jan. 6. The District Emergency Operation Center has been activated and alerted flood teams for western Washington basins with one team out on the Olympic Peninsula.

The reservoirs behind dams the Corps operates are all down at low levels ready to hold back anticipated high flows. The Corps operates dams in the White/Puyallup, Green/Duwamish, Skagit and Wynoochee basins for flood risk reduction.

Flood fight teams from the Corps are prepared to assist local governments wherever needed and several will be headed out to western Washington basins early Wednesday. The Corps is monitoring the situation throughout western Washington.

"The Corps has teams of emergency responders that assist in floods and natural disasters and they are ready to assist local governments," said Seattle District Emergency Management Chief Paul Komoroske.

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 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.