

FLOOD AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR DUVALL AREA RESIDENTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

This page provides information on the frequency and severity of flooding in the Lower Snoqualmie Valley, how to find information about flood and road conditions, suggestions for preparedness, and links to sites for more information.

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS INFO

Flooding and Road Closures

Note, Duvall and the lower Snoqualmie Valley typically experience flooding several times a year. The flood events may close one or two roads (usually NE Tolt Hill Road near Carnation, NE 124th near Duvall, and sometimes others) for several days at a time. These closures are inconvenient, as they result in significantly more traffic on the remaining roads.

At approximately 5 to 10-year intervals, all the roads crossing the lower Snoqualmie Valley, and SR 203 north and south of Duvall, are closed by flood waters. The roads usually close in a predictable pattern:

- 1) NE Tolt Hill Road
- 2) NE 124th
- 3) NE Carnation Farm Road
- 4) 203 south of Carnation
- 5) 203 north of Duvall
- 6) Woodinville-Duvall Road. *Note, the Woodinville Duvall Road rarely closes.*

Complete isolation, i.e., when there are no roads open out of Duvall, typically lasts between 24 and 36 hours. As waters recede, roads open upstream/to the south first. In some years, road opening was delayed while King County repaired damaged pavement.

There are many factors that influence the severity of a flood, including river levels prior to the flood event, which river basin is experiencing rain/run off events (i.e., the Tolt or Snoqualmie Rivers), flooding on the Skykomish River, and even tides in Everett.

Historic Floods in the lower Snoqualmie Valley.

Note, the flood elevations shown below are measured in feet about sea level at Carnation. The gage is located near the Carnation Farm Road bridge over the Snoqualmie River. There is not currently a river gage in Duvall.

Highlighted floods indicate recent years when the Woodinville-Duvall Road closed.

- January 2009. 62.21 ft
- November 2008 60.49 ft
- November 2006 61.28 ft
- February 1996 60.34 ft
- November 1995 60.30 ft
- November 1990 60.70 ft

Advance Warning

Unlike earthquakes and other natural disasters, we know when floods will occur in the Snoqualmie Valley. Flooding is the result of heavy rains and snowmelt in the Central Cascades. We can look at weather data and river levels at automated measuring sites in the Cascades and along the Snoqualmie River in the upper valley. The National Weather Service looks at this data and can project water levels in the lower valley. It takes 1 to 2 days for flooding in the North Bend area to reach Duvall.

Emergency Response During Flood Events

Duvall KCFD 45 works closely with neighboring fire departments and patient transport services to evacuate people needing medical care during major flood events.

- Redmond Medic One. When resources permit, Redmond Medic One will station one or two paramedics (which have a higher level of medical training than most firefighter/EMTs) in Duvall during major flood events.

- Airlift Northwest. If we have a critically ill or injured patient, we can fly them to the hospital by helicopter.
- Woodinville Fire. For many medical emergencies, Duvall Fire will transport the patient across the flooded Snoqualmie Valley by boat, and then the patient will be transferred to an aid car staffed by Woodinville Fire.
- Private ambulance companies. For less serious medical conditions, or when local fire departments are short on resources, Duvall will transport the patient across the valley and transfer the patient to a private ambulance for transport to the hospital.

Evacuation

During normal weather conditions, people often drive themselves to medical facilities for routine events and treatments such as child birth or kidney dialysis. If you or a family member require such medical treatment when all the roads are closed, call 911. The dispatcher will put you in touch with Duvall Fire to arrange transport by boat across the flood waters.

We do transport family or a companion of a sick or injured person, but we do not transport people across the flood waters for non-medical reasons.

Flood Advice

Here are some suggestions to help you and your family prepare for floods.

- Sign up for flood alerts (information is provided below)
- Sign up for road closure alerts (information is provided below)
- Learn to monitor websites with forecast information.
- Practice good emergency preparedness by having basic disaster supplies in your home like food and water.

WEB RESOURCES

Here is a list of resources for checking on weather, road, and flood conditions. We have also included links to find information on general emergency preparedness.

ALERT King County

- **ALERT King County** is a regional public information and notification service offered by King County Emergency Management. **ALERT King County** helps you **stay informed** about potential hazards and threats that impact your area.
- <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/alert-king-county.aspx>

King County Flood Alerts

King County offers free Flood Alerts to help keep you informed of flood conditions.

- Get Alerts by e-mail and/or phone (voice or text messages)
- Select the rivers that affect you
- Select the flood phase levels of interest to you
- <https://green2.kingcounty.gov/floodalertsystm/>

King County Road Alerts

- King County Road Alert is an email and text alert service for travelers on roads in unincorporated King County.
- You can receive all alerts or just messages for roads in specific zones.
- Subscribers get emails and text messages about unincorporated King County road construction projects, significant weather-related road closures and natural disasters
- <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/roads/road-alert.aspx>

King County Flood Warning Center

Information on flood levels, historical flood levels, and real time river flow information.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/flooding/warning-system.aspx>

Duvall Mobile Flood & Snowmageddan Page (Jim Gale)

This is a privately maintained page that brings together road, traffic camera, flood projections, and other information that could be useful to Duvall residents during adverse weather.

<http://d.jimgale.net/>

King County Office of Emergency Management

Info on Personal and family preparedness, including lists of items recommended to be included emergency preparedness kits.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/preparedness/personal-family.aspx>

National Weather Service

This is the link to the National Weather Service basic forecast page – enter your location (such as “Duvall, WA”) and hit enter.

<https://www.weather.gov/sew/>

National Weather Service River Observations

You can enlarge/zoom in on the map and click on the Snoqualmie River and Tolt Rivers to see real time river levels. The closest river gage to Duvall is at Carnation. Note, river flow data is not very accurate for summer/low water flows.

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=sew>

City of Duvall

Map showing typical sequence for road closures during a flood

<https://www.duvallwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2519/2015-Road-Closures-Regional>

Carnation Duvall Citizen Corps/CERT

CDCC offers a variety of useful information and also provides classes.

<http://www.cdccc.us/>

Seattle Public Utilities – South Fork Tolt River Reservoir

<http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/DamSafety/ToltDam/index.htm>

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Telephone Numbers for Road Closure and Flood Information

If you need to find the information via telephone, here is a list of whom to call:

- King County Flood Warning Center (recorded information) 206-296-8200
- King County Road Closure Line (recorded information) 206-296-9150 or 800-527-6237

QUESTIONS?

Do you have questions about this information? Call Battalion Chief Greg Bawden at Duvall Fire, 435-788-1625 or contact him by email at gbawden@duvallfire45.com