

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cowlitz County has been added to the major disaster declaration (FEMA-1817-DR) for the State of Washington. This disaster declaration qualifies Cowlitz County for individual assistance as a result of the early January flooding.

If you had water or flood damage from the storms that began on January 7, 2009... **Please Register with FEMA!** It is important to understand that the request to report damages to Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management in the days following the flood was for damage assessment purposes (in order to get the above declaration), it was **NOT** the same as registering for FEMA assistance. The registration period is only open until **March 30th, 2009**.

Citizens can register with FEMA three different ways:

- Call toll-free from 8a-8p daily at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
- Go online to www.disasterassistance.gov
- Register in person at the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), 1942 3rd Avenue, Longview, WA, (the building to the south of the Hall of Justice). The DRC will be open 9a-7p Monday through Saturday and 9a-6p on Sunday.

You do not have to go to a DRC to register, any one of the three ways is acceptable. Please remember, if you do not register, you will not get assistance.

For those with internet availability, watch the Cowlitz County DEM blog for updates or other emergency management related information: www.CowlitzCountyDEM.blogspot.com

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