

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, December 19, 2008

www.snoco.org

Winter preparedness urged this weekend

The National Weather Service has predicted a significant storm could descend on the Puget Sound beginning Saturday evening, with other storm events following. Freezing temperatures and high winds, along with more snow and freezing rain, could down power lines and trees as well as make driving conditions difficult.

County road crews, PUD power crews and emergency response personnel will continue to work around the clock to respond to weather related situations.

Residents, however, are urged to prepare for excessive weather conditions. Below are tips to follow:

Preparing Home & Family

- * Review and update your family emergency plan.
- * Replenish your emergency supply kits including battery-operated radio and flashlights.
- * Stock extra water (a gallon per person per day), food and clothing.
- * Have extra blankets on hand.
- * To prevent carbon-monoxide poisoning, never use heating devices inside the home that are intended for outdoor use, such as barbeques and other cooking equipment.
- * Move family pets indoors or to an enclosure out of the elements.
- * Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter.
- * Clear rain gutters and cut away tree branches that could fall during a storm.
- * Maintain a sufficient supply of heating fuel.
- * Insulate pipes and allow faucets to drip during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- * Keep fire extinguishers on hand
- * Know how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

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How are we doing?

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

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Traveling with Caution

- * Have your car winterized and make sure it is working properly.
- * Install good winter tires.
- * Keep a shovel, windshield scraper and blankets inside your vehicle.
- * Maintain at least a half tank of gas at all times.
- * Check road conditions before departing.
- * Let others know of your route and your estimated time of arrival.
- * Allow extra time and extra distance between vehicles.

 **Governor's budget includes \$1 million for county emergency operations center**

Gov. Chris Gregoire's proposed budget for 2009 includes \$1 million in capital funding for a new Snohomish County emergency operations center.

Reardon lauded Gregoire on the inclusion of this money and urged state legislators to approve the funding. A new emergency operations center is the county's top priority for the 2009 state legislative session.

"This is a step forward in our goal of building a new, technologically advanced EOC," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Emergency preparedness is a must so that we can protect life and property during any natural or man-made disasters."

If approved, this money, in addition to \$3.25 million in county funding and a \$1 million Congressional appropriation led by Rep. Rick Larsen in September, will allow Snohomish County to complete design work and prepare for construction of the new facility. The current EOC building at Snohomish County's Paine Field Airport was built just after World War II.

A new emergency operations center will serve as the primary administrative, training and operations location for the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management and the main training facility for first responders and community volunteers throughout the Northwestern Washington region.

Gregoire's capital budget also includes another \$500,000 for Snohomish County's biodiesel project and \$1 million for the Dawson Place Advocacy Center of which the county is a

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Or, [send me an email](#).

And please be sure to [visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

participating member.

 **County crews tackle tough weather, road conditions**

More than 160 members of the county's Public Works Road Maintenance Division have been working around the clock since Saturday, December 13, clearing snow and ice from roads.

Crews responded to the deluge of storms on a "call-out" basis beginning Saturday, and by Sunday morning it became obvious that full snow and ice emergency operations were necessary.

With 33 plow/sander trucks, five graders and five liquid anti-ice trucks Road Maintenance made the decision to implement the emergency snow and ice plan across the division, which implements 24-hour.

Since Saturday, crews have plowed and re-plowed several thousand miles of roads throughout Snohomish County. In the six days since the storm began, crews have put out more than 4,000 tons of sand and 720 tons of solid de-icer on snow and ice covered roads.

Crews are facing the potential for snow, freezing rain, and high winds this weekend. When you see a snowplow out there, slow down and give them a thumbs up.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.