

WHATCOM COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BILL ELFO  
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
311 Grand Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-6600

## Super Bowl Flood Storm Damage to Your Home or Business?

Report Damages to the:  
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management  
Damage Assessment Line (360) 788-5311

*This Assessment is not a guarantee of financial assistance for losses.*

Information to gather to help complete the assessment process when we return your call:

### For Individuals/Homes (Renters Should Start With Number 3 Below):

1. Estimated Pre-Disaster Fair Market Value of Structure (of the home, not the home + land):
  - 1.1.1.If you rent, your landlord needs to report this information.
2. Estimated Structure Loss in \$\$\$.
  - 2.1.1.If you rent, your landlord needs to report this information.
3. Estimated Personal Property Loss in \$\$\$: Including clothes, furnishings, vehicles, etc.
4. Type of Insurance and Deductible.
5. Category of Damage:
  - 5.1.1.Affected: Living unit damaged but still habitable.
  - 5.1.2.Minor: Conditional use, repairable in <30 days and for a few thousand dollars.
  - 5.1.3.Major: Uninhabitable with significant structural loss of >50% of Fair Market Value.
  - 5.1.4.Destroyed: Permanently uninhabitable.

### For Businesses:

1. Estimated Pre-Disaster Fair Market Value of Business.
  - 1.1.1.Owners include business, structure, & inventory/furnishings.
  - 1.1.2.Lesars include business & inventory/furnishings.
2. Estimated Structure Loss in \$\$\$: Reported by the owner.
3. Estimated Loss of Furnishings/Inventory in \$\$\$.
4. Type of Insurance and Deductible.
5. # of Days Closed due to disaster.
6. Whether you have Business Continuity Insurance.
7. Category of Damage:
  - 7.1.1.Affected: Business damaged but still operational.
  - 7.1.2.Minor: Conditional use, repairable in <30 days and for a few thousand dollars.
  - 7.1.3.Major: Uninhabitable with significant structural loss of >50% of Fair Market Value.
  - 7.1.4. Destroyed: Business permanently closed.

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## Clean Up Guidance for Your Home or Business

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, Whatcom County Health Department and the Whatcom County Planning and Development Services would like you to keep the following in mind as you assess any damage to your home or business caused by this flood and begin repairs:

- Personal safety is always the highest priority when entering buildings damaged by floodwater.
- Check for structural damage before re-entering your home to avoid being trapped in a building collapse.
- Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- If you smell gas, call 911.
- Take photos of any floodwater in your home and of damaged items for insurance purposes.
- Rescue the most valuable items, but never attempt to salvage belongings at the expense of your own safety.
- Wear long sleeves, sturdy shoes or waterproof boots, and plastic or rubber gloves during cleanup.
- Wash your hands often with soap and clean water or use a hand-cleaning gel with alcohol in it.
- Mold can form within 48 hours; you will need to work fast. The goal is to reduce the humidity and temperature around your treasures as you proceed to clean and dry them. If you do encounter extensive mold, use protective gear such as gloves, goggles, and an N95 or N100 face mask, available at most hardware stores.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers guidelines for [mold cleanup after floods](#).
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides a number of helpful resources, including information about [Reentering Your Flooded Home](#); and [www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/cleanupwater.html](http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/cleanupwater.html) about hazards you may encounter when cleaning up inside and outside your home.
- Whatcom County Planning and Development Services has an expedited "repair and inspection" process to help people affected by flooding.
- Additional information is available on the Whatcom County Planning and Development website.
- The Health Department can be reached at 360-778-6000, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm; request to speak to someone in the Environmental Health Division that can assist with questions related to flooding and flood recovery.

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