

NEWS RELEASE

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Cold temperatures cause ice concerns

Richland, Wash.: Benton County Emergency Services reminds residents living along the Yakima River to monitor water levels in their areas. The recent stretch of cold weather has caused ice to build up in several areas which could potentially cause some localized flooding in low-lying areas of Benton City, West Richland, and Richland.

“It is always prudent to be aware of river levels in your area,” said Bob Spencer, manager of Benton County Emergency Management. “Plans prepared and precautions taken now are like ‘money in the bank’ if flooding were to occur.”

Livestock can be very vulnerable to the effects of localized flooding. Several instances have occurred in the past in which horses and cattle have been stranded due to water running through a pasture. Livestock owners should always have plans in place to move their herds to higher ground if flooding is imminent.

In addition, local officials remind residents to stay off the ice. There is no guarantee that it will support even the weight of a small child. The best advice is to stay well away from the river’s edge.

Local officials will continue to monitor river levels and will advise area residents if conditions change.

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