

NEWS RELEASE

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Residents along Yakima River urged to monitor water levels

Richland , Wash.: Benton County Emergency Services remind residents living along the Yakima River to monitor water levels in their areas. The abrupt increase in temperatures is causing the ice to break up in some areas and move downriver through open waters. Those ice floats can lodge against other ice, creating ice jams, which cause water to flow around the ice jam. Water levels can increase dramatically in a very short period of time and quickly create localized flooding. Residents in low-lying areas of West Richland, and Richland should pay special attention to the water along their property.

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 necessary.

Residents are also reminded to stay off the ice, especially now that temperatures have moderated.

Also, with snow melting in yards and streets, residents are asked to make sure storm drains in their neighborhoods are free of ice and snow. This will help minimize localized neighborhood flooding.

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

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