

NEWS RELEASE

February 16, 2009

Contact: Jim Duncan
(509) 628-26500

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER TO OPEN IN WEST RICHLAND

Benton County, Wash. —Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials announced that next week a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will be opened in West Richland. A DRC is a readily accessible facility where applicants may go for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs. The DRC will assist citizens who were affected by the Yakima River January 2009 Flood.

The DRC will be located at the Benton County Fire Protection District #4 Station 420. The fire station is at 2604 Bombing Range Rd. West Richland, WA. The dates and hours of operation are February 17th through the 19th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Flood affected citizens are urged to register with FEMA either at the DRC or by calling 1-800-621-3362. Speech or hearing impaired callers can use the TTY number 1-800-462-7585. They can also register for FEMA assistance on the internet by going to www.disasterassistance.gov.

FEMA is encouraging flood affected citizens to register with them. The initial flood damage information collected by local officials for the flood damage assessment did not register people with FEMA for assistance. Many citizens think they are already registered with FEMA when they are not.

The deadline for registration with FEMA for flood assistance is March 31st, 2009!

###