

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2006

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Irrigation canal break floods homes in Finley

Richland WA – Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) partially activated its emergency operations center in Richland to support numerous agencies responding to the flooding that resulted from a breach in the banks of an irrigation canal in Finley late Saturday afternoon. The first 9-1-1 call reporting the flooding came into the Southeast Communications Center at 4:35 p.m. As of 6:30 p.m., the Columbia Irrigation District was working to stop the flow of water through the canal and repair the breach.

Initial reports indicate that 15 homes were flooded. Residents in the area have been asked to evacuate the area. The Benton Franklin Chapter of the American Red Cross has responded and is establishing an evacuation center at Riverview High School in Finley for any evacuees needing assistance.

Agencies notified and/or responding include BCES, Columbia Irrigation District, Benton County Fire Protection District 1, the Benton County Sheriff's Office, the Benton Franklin Chapter of the American Red Cross, Verizon Telephone, Union Pacific Railroad, Benton County Road Department, Benton Franklin Health District, animal control, and the Washington Department of Ecology. Benton County Commissioners were also notified of the flooding.

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