

NEWS RELEASE

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Ice jams may cause localized flooding along Yakima River

Richland, Wash.: Ice is building up in several areas on the Yakima River in Benton County. Although river flow is typical for this time of year, the presence of ice jams can cause localized areas of flooding as water flows around the ice. Benton County Emergency Services is asking residents living along the Yakima River in Benton City, West Richland, and Richland to monitor water levels in their areas. One specific area that is seeing localized flooding at this time is approximately one-half mile downstream of the Van Giesen Road Bridge in West Richland.

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 needed.

County officials will continue to monitor ice in the river and will advise area residents if conditions change. Additionally, residents are reminded to stay off the ice.

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