

# NEWS RELEASE

January 10, 2009 (7 a.m.)

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## **Yakima River Saturday 7 a.m. update – Moderate Flooding Expected**

Richland, Wash: The Yakima River as measured in the Kiona-Benton City area in Benton County reached flood stage of 13 feet at 5:30 p.m. Friday, January 9, 2009. As of 7 a.m. today (Saturday), the river level at the Kiona-Benton City gage is 14.9 feet. Current forecasts show the river cresting at about 15.3 feet later this afternoon and falling below flood stage sometime Monday morning. Levels above 15 feet can cause moderate flooding of roads and property along the river. (Please note that these numbers are based on current projections and are subject to change).

Emergency crews will be in the field early this morning to assess the current situation. Several roads in the Benton City and West Richland areas are now covered with water. Residents are reminded not to drive around barricades nor drive on water-covered roads.

Residents should continue to monitor river levels in their area and take whatever precautionary measures are warranted to protect property. Please listen for situation updates on local radio and television stations. Information is also available on the Benton County Emergency Services website at [www.bces.wa.gov](http://www.bces.wa.gov).

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