

# NEWS RELEASE

January 11, 2009 (7:45 a.m.)

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## **Yakima River Sunday 7:45 a.m. update**

Richland, Wash: The Yakima River as measured in the Kiona-Benton City area in Benton County crested at 15.5 feet at about 6:15 p.m. Saturday, January 10. Currently, levels have dropped to about 14.9 feet at Kiona-Benton City. Waters are continuing to fall very slowly and are not expected to fall below flood stage (13 feet) until sometime Monday morning.

Numerous roads in an around the Yakima River near Benton City, West Richland, and Richland remain under water. Traffic on a section Van Giesen St. between West Richland and the Bypass Highway is restricted to two lanes due to water on the road. 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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