

NEWS RELEASE

January 10, 2009 (5:45 p.m.)

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Yakima River Saturday 5:45 p.m. update

Richland, Wash: The Yakima River as measured in the Kiona-Benton City area in Benton County was at 15.5 feet at 5:45 Saturday, January 10. Current forecasts show the river may be very close to its crest at the measuring station in Benton City. Waters 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. Once flood waters recede crews will assess any damage to roads. 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.

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