

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Yakima River update

Richland, Wash: Current forecasts from the National Weather Service indicate that the Yakima River in Benton County will reach flood stage by mid-day Friday. Flood stage measured in the Kiona-Benton City area is 13 feet. Currently (Thursday at noon) measurements in that area are about six feet and rising. According to forecasts, the river is expected to crest at about 14.4 feet on Saturday, January 10, at about 10 a.m. (Please note that these numbers are based on current projections).

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.

In addition, property owners along the river should ensure that any boats and other equipment near river banks are either moved or secured to prevent items being washed away with the rising water.

Residents should continue to monitor river levels in their area and 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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