

NEWS RELEASE

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Yakima River levels on the rise

Richland, Wash: With moderating temperatures, melting snow and projected rainfall, water levels in the Yakima River in Benton County are forecast to rise considerably as we move towards the coming weekend. Benton County Emergency Services asks those residents living along the Yakima River to closely monitor the water levels in their area.

Current information indicates the Yakima should crest about one foot below flood stage by Saturday morning. Emergency officials remind those residents of Benton City, West Richland, Prosser, and Richland living in low-lying areas along the Yakima that they may see some minor localized flooding before water levels begin to recede.

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 river levels and will advise area residents if conditions change. Up-to-date information is also available on the Benton County Emergency Services website at www.bces.wa.gov.

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