

NEWS RELEASE

January 10, 2009 (11:45 a.m.)

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Yakima River Saturday 11:45 a.m. update – Moderate Flooding

Richland, Wash: The Yakima River as measured in the Kiona-Benton City area in Benton County is currently running at 15.1 feet, which is two feet above flood stage. Current forecasts show the river cresting at about 15.5 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).

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. Several homes in the county have been surrounded by water.

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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