



July 24, 2009

Bulletin #1

### Situation:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has discovered damage to a portion of the Howard Hanson Dam. This dam has controlled flooding in the Green River Valley for the last 40 years, however the dam will only operate at 30% capacity this winter. Therefore, there is a much greater risk of significant flooding during periods of heavy rain throughout the lower Green River Valley, affecting the cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila.

The USACE is actively testing and investigating the source of the problems and trying to identify solutions. The USACE has significantly reduced the water storage levels at the Dam and is taking a number of steps to try and minimize the flood risk. However, the USACE does not anticipate a full solution to the problems with the Dam by this flood season. The cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton and Tukwila and King County government agencies are working closely with the USACE to prepare for the 2009 flood season.

#### Additional information is available at the USACE website:

[http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Doc\\_list.cfm?sitename=HHD&pagename=Pool\\_Restriction](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Doc_list.cfm?sitename=HHD&pagename=Pool_Restriction)



### ESF 8- Health, Medical & Mortuary Response Planning Assumptions:

Health and Medical Area Command has established a set of planning assumptions regarding the risk for flooding in the Green River Valley. These assumptions help guide ongoing planning by the Area Command and can be used to help guide the individual planning activities of our partner organizations:

- Continuity of health, medical & mortuary services in King County is essential to the public's health and safety
- Flooding will impact regional health, medical & mortuary service providers, businesses, local, state & federal government agencies & local residents, including vulnerable populations
- Organizations & residents outside of the directly flooded areas may also experience power outages, natural gas disruption & impacts to sewer systems
- Flooding may result in a variety of environmental health impacts
- Evacuation of healthcare facilities & medically vulnerable residents may be necessary
- Primary transportation routes & transit service will be impacted, therefore affecting supply, staff & patient movement
- Medical needs shelters may be required to shelter & ensure medical care is available to patients or medically vulnerable residents
- Coordinated health & safety messaging is essential to protecting the public's health
- Impacted public & private organizations may have to implement business continuity plans including, but not limited to facility or service relocation or alternate employee work assignments

### About this Bulletin:

Public Health –Seattle & King County has activated the Health & Medical Area Command to coordinate health, medical and mortuary planning for regional hazards including H1N1 influenza and the Howard Hanson Dam – Green River Valley flood risks. We will be issuing bi-monthly bulletins on each of these topics to outline key situational updates, planning activities and information specific to health, medical and mortuary response.

### What is Health & Medical Area Command?

Area Command is an incident management tool used to coordinate emergency response efforts across multiple jurisdictions, and among multiple agencies vying for the same resources. Health & Medical Area Command coordinates health information, resources and sets policy decisions for the county-wide health response during a disaster. The health, medical and mortuary response is led by the ESF 8 Area Commander, who reports to the Local Health Officer.

For tomorrow's emergency **VOLUNTEER TODAY!** King County Public Health Reserve Corps needs medical and non-medical volunteers during public health emergencies and major disasters! Visit [www.kingcounty.gov/health/phrc](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/phrc) or email [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov).

### Currently:

Public Health and the Health & Medical Area Command staff are actively working with local city emergency managers, King County and planning partners to assess potential impacts to Public Health operations, healthcare facilities and medically vulnerable residents and develop plans for response. This work includes:

- Assessment of flood and infrastructure impacts to healthcare facilities in the flood zone
- Coordination with local and county governments regarding notification/warning and evacuation protocol
- Coordination with EMS to plan for healthcare facility evacuations
- Developing plans to activate medical needs shelters or alternate care facilities (ACFs) to support healthcare facility evacuation.
- Coordinating with sewer districts, the Department of Ecology and other environmental service agencies to assess potential health impacts
- Establishing Hazardous Waste planning group
- Outreach to adult family homes and nursing homes to support plans for transportation and patient placement
- Assessing impacts to mortuary providers and mortuary services county-wide
- Developing communication and health educational materials for flood preparedness and response
- Business continuity planning for Public Health operations

### Planning Recommendations:

- ✓ **Review your flood insurance policies**
  - Evaluate your policy for structure & contents coverage
  - Ensure you are covered for potential damage caused by sewer backups  
See Also: <http://www.scmd.org/Library/DisasterMitigation/Flood/ProtectPropFloodBackflowValves.pdf>
- ✓ **Purchase flood insurance**
  - Contact your insurance representative or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)
- ✓ **Get to know your local office of emergency management**
  - Find out how to receive information and emergency alerts from your city emergency management
- ✓ **Review your emergency operations & business continuity plans**
  - Assess facility evacuation plans
  - Assess plans for transporting staff to and from work
  - Evaluate plans for shifting service delivery to alternate locations, if needed
  - Review facility plans and identify potential critical infrastructure impacts
  - Review staff and patient/client emergency notification protocol
- ✓ **Talk to staff that live or work in the impact areas about personal & family emergency preparedness, including family communication plans**
  - To learn about personal preparedness visit: <http://www.govlink.org/3days3ways/>

### For more information:

#### US Army Corps of Engineers

[http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Doc\\_list.cfm?sitename=HHD&pagename=Pool\\_Restriction](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Doc_list.cfm?sitename=HHD&pagename=Pool_Restriction)

#### King County Office of Emergency Management

[http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare/FloodPlan\\_GRiverBasin.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare/FloodPlan_GRiverBasin.aspx)

Questions? Please email [healthcoc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:healthcoc@kingcounty.gov)

### In the news:

**Officials concerned with erosion at Howard Hanson Dam Auburn Reporter**  
[http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/aur/news/49163347.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/aur/news/49163347.html)

**Corps turns to grout wall as temporary fix at dam Auburn Reporter**  
[http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/aur/news/50894297.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/aur/news/50894297.html)

**In addition to Senators Murray and Cantwell's appropriation requests for levee safety, Congressman Adam Smith has recently called for Dam repair**  
<http://adamsmith.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=137702>

**King Co. Councilman Reagan Dunn calls for creation of a 'flood czar' Auburn Reporter**  
[http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/aur/news/51433517.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/aur/news/51433517.html)

### Flood planning agencies & city web sites:

**U.S. Geological Survey**  
<http://wa.water.usgs.gov/>

**King County Flood Services**  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/flooding.aspx>

**Public Health – Seattle & King County**  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/disaster.aspx>

**City of Auburn**  
<http://www.auburnwa.gov/Home.asp>

**City of Kent**  
<http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/emergencymanagement/index.aspx?id=1214>

**City of Renton**  
<http://www.rentonwa.gov/>

**City of Seattle**  
<http://www.seattle.gov/>

**City of Tukwila**  
<http://www.ci.tukwila.wa.us/>