



Requesting Emergency Assistance

Information for non-federal emergency management agencies

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

How Walla Walla District supports the region

Counties may apply directly to Walla Walla District for flood support, but the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) must be involved to insure that maximum non-federal resources are applied to the situation before federal aid is provided. Tribes may apply directly to the District, but are encouraged to cooperate with county and state officials. All other agencies and special districts must work through county and state governments. Walla Walla District coordinates with non-federal emergency management agencies out of flood season to insure their plans include our capabilities and limitations.



Flood support guidelines for Walla Walla District

- Walla Walla District is not a first-response agency. Under federal policy, the impacted non-federal government is the primary responder to a flood event.
- Walla Walla District does not assist individual homeowners, property owners or businesses (to include agricultural businesses).
- There must be an imminent threat to lives and property, with confirmation by the National Weather Service (at a river forecast point) or other sources (e.g., a state agency, or the owner of a dam).
- An emergency declaration must be made by the impacted government, in accordance with their laws.
- The District must be requested by elected leaders, or an emergency management agency on their behalf, to support their flood operations.
- Cities, special districts, and other local agencies must apply through a county, state, or tribe.
- The requesting government is the lead for protecting lives and property, and must be capable of managing the incident, including requesting external resources.
- Coordination with the state emergency management agency by the requesting government is required (tribes excepted). The District may be contacted directly by the impacted government to expedite the request, but the state has to be involved as soon as possible.
- All District support is supplemental to the resources and efforts applied to the event by the impacted government(s). The requesting government must have made a reasonable effort to use their available resources prior to any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers support being authorized by the national headquarters.
- All District flood-support operations terminate when flood waters recede below bankfull.



What type of flood support does Walla Walla District provide?

- **Technical Advice:** Answer specific questions for officials by telephone.
- **Technical Assistance:** Deploy subject matter experts to study a situation and develop specific recommendations.
- **Material Assistance:** Issue supplies (including sandbags and plastic rolls) for temporary flood protection structures.
- **Direct Assistance:** Build temporary flood protection structures, and/or repair existing structures through contractors. This requires a Cooperative Agreement between the requesting government and Walla Walla District, with all rights of entry and easements provided by the requestor before work begins.

How long does it take to get flood support from Walla Walla District?

Flooding must be addressed immediately. However, the District needs time to obtain funding, and then mobilize personnel and/or contractors. Technical assistance generally takes one to three (1-3) days to be on the ground, while direct assistance may take up to seven (7) days. Every effort will be made to expedite all requests. Nonetheless, as noted above, the District MUST confirm that the request is supplemental to non-federal efforts.

Because of this, non-federal governments are encouraged to develop flood response plans that include:

- Identify potential flooding conditions as far out as possible.
- Conduct pre-flood season coordination with local agencies, the SEMA, and Walla Walla District.
- Coordinate with the SEMA during potential flooding conditions.
- Routinely advise Walla Walla District of your preparedness activities, and avoid last minute calls for assistance whenever possible.
- Be prepared to address flooding issues without Corps support for up to 5 days.

Non-federal governments are encouraged to review the Walla Walla District publication “Flood-Fight Handbook: Preparing for a Flood” available by e-mail from the District’s Readiness Office.



What does Walla Walla District flood support cost?

District support operations are generally 100-percent federally funded. These exceptions are the responsibility of the supported government:

- Costs related to the Cooperative Agreement and rights of way/easements.
- Possible reimbursement for sandbags and placement, either in kind or by payment.
- Removal or upgrade of all temporary structures built under Direct Assistance.

How to reach us

Contact Walla Walla District’s Readiness Office for support prior to or during a flood event. Business hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday – call 509-527-7146 or email cenww-eoc@usace.army.mil. After business hours, contact the Duty Officer at 1-509-380-4538 (to assure contact, dial all 11 digits, even within the 509 area code).

When contacting us during an emergency, please be ready to discuss your current situation, your current response operations, and what support you need. Our staff is available to answer questions prior to floods.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – WALLA WALLA DISTRICT

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