

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 9:42AM

CITY OF BURLINGTON FAQ:

1. What is the current flooding situation in Burlington?

Floodwaters from Gages Slough and the Skagit River caused damage and forced evacuation of many homes on Friday. Water levels have begun to recede in some areas, but flooding remains extensive and parts of the community are still impacted.

2. Is there an evacuation order?

A Level 3 “GO – Evacuate Immediately” notice was issued for all Burlington residents on Friday as floodwaters entered neighborhoods. Portions of the evacuation order were later partially lifted for areas west of the railroad tracks where conditions allowed. However, many evacuation zones remain in place, and residents should not assume their area is safe unless specifically informed by emergency management.

3. Can people return home now?

Skagit County guidance says that residents may only return home if travel routes are open and safe, and homes are not currently under water. Many streets and neighborhoods remain unsafe due to standing floodwater and road closures.

4. Why is Gages Slough flooding and what’s being done?

Gages Slough is flooding because the Skagit River reached record levels. Gages slough is in the Skagit river floodplain. Extreme amounts of river water entered the slough near District Line Road, much more than it has the capacity to convey. Crews are monitoring conditions and responding where it is safe and effective.

5. Are pumps or drainage equipment being deployed at Gages Slough?

Pumps are being deployed at Anacortes St to help draw down water on the east side of the street.

6. Why does it take so long for floodwaters to go down?

The Skagit River set a record at nearly 10 feet above flood stage and remained high above flood stage through Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This water is being pumped back into the Skagit River. The normal gravity driven capacity cannot function until the river level returns to normal.

7. What should I do if I see standing water near my home?

- Stay out of the water - it can hide hazards (debris, contaminants, damaged road surfaces or utilities).
- Respect road closure signs and avoid driving through water.
- Return only when authorities say it's safe, and roadways are open.

8. Are more storms expected?

Yes. Forecasts show additional rain and potential atmospheric river conditions returning beginning today and lasting through midweek, which could introduce new flooding risk while waters are still high.

9. What about power, utilities, and services?

- Flood impacts, saturated ground, and potential wind may continue to affect power and utilities. Residents should:
- Prepare for possible outages.
- Charge essential devices.
- Have flashlights and backup plans ready.
- Check local utility providers' updates for service information.

10. Who do I call for help?

- Immediate emergencies: Call 911
- Shelter or evacuation support: Contact Skagit County Emergency Management 360.416.2090 or visit www.skagitcounty.net/flood
- Non-life-threatening concerns: Use non-emergency police/fire contact numbers. 360.428.3211 (Burlington PD) or 360.755.0261 (Burlington Fire)

11. Where can I get reliable updates?

- Skagit County Flood information & resources: www.skagitcounty.net/flood
- City of Burlington official updates and resources: www.burlingtonwa.gov/204/Flood-Information
- River Level Hotline: (360) 416-1404
- Skagit County DEM Facebook
- Burlington Parks & Recreation Facebook
- Burlington PD Facebook

12. What should I do now to prepare?

- Keep emergency supplies ready (medications, food, water).
- Avoid travel through flooded roads.
- Secure outdoor items against wind and rain.
- Check on neighbors and assist those needing help.

We'll keep sharing updates as things change. You're not alone - we're in this together. #SkagitStrong