

DEVASTATING MUDSLIDE NEAR GRANITE FALLS

Our hearts go out to the families affected and their loved ones, and the responders who are helping in response to the Oso mudslide that occurred on Saturday, March 22. The devastating landslide has claimed several lives, destroyed many homes, and left some trapped in the mud and debris. The Granite Falls School District has been working with Granite Falls and Darrington city officials, as well as, the Darrington School District to help in any way possible.

After a natural disaster, the Red Cross takes the lead in providing shelter and support to both the survivors and the rescue crews. People remain missing and loved ones are trying to get in touch with friends and family who lived in the area. The Red Cross has established a shelter for displaced families at Arlington's Post Middle School and at the Darrington Community Center.

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Make a financial contribution:

1. The Red Cross is specifically requesting cash donations at this time. You can donate by going to www.redcross.org/wa/everett, or by calling 1-800-Red-Cross, or texting "90999." Red Cross has stated they have copious amounts of other donated items and the organization of these items is delaying service to evacuees, so this is why they are asking for a financial contribution at this time.
2. The city of Darrington also stated that if people want to donate by mail, they can send a check made out to "North Counties Relief Fund" to:
Coastal Community Bank
North Counties Relief Fund
PO Box 90
Darrington, WA 98241
3. The Granite Falls High School ASB Leadership Class has been collecting monetary donations for the American Red Cross to help support those who have been affected by the disaster. These will be collected at the front office of the high school. Please contact Debbie Lindahl at 360.691.7713.
4. United Way has created a "Disaster Recovery Fund" for Mudslide Relief. [The Herald](#) covered the details in their paper. United Way established this community-wide Recovery Fund in response to the numerous inquiries they received locally, statewide and from across the country. 100% of the money donated to this fund will go to recovery efforts. The Recovery Fund is seeded with \$25,000 from our endowment. JPMorgan Chase added \$50,000 as soon

as they heard the fund had been set up. Visit the [Recovery Fund](#) page in order to learn more.

- **PLEASE DO NOT GO TO THE SCENE.** The Snohomish County Police Department strongly request that people do not go to the area. The slide area remains very dangerous. Non-dispatched individuals at the scene will complicate the response efforts of the rescue crews.
- **Encourage survivors to register** with, and friends and family to search for loved ones using www.safeandwell.org. Free counseling is available from the Red Cross around-the-clock at 800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.
- **Provide short-term housing for residents of Darrington.** The Granite Falls School District and City of Granite Falls have reached out to the city of Darrington to offer any type of support possible. The city of Darrington expressed that one of the biggest issues their residents face is the extended commute. Residents are commuting 4 times the distance they were commuting to work prior to the landslide. Right now, a lot of the residents are commuting at least 2 hours one way, which means they are traveling around 4 hours each day and that is simply not feasible for some of these individuals. Most of these individuals work at Boeing, so for some individuals who work further south, they travel even longer days. There is no time frame for how long this new commute could last. This is one of Darrington's concerns, among MANY others at this point. This specific request will maintain over the next few months as crews work to clear the roadways. If you have an extra room/space available or a place you would be willing to rent for these individuals who may be of need, then please contact the city of Darrington at 360.436.1131.

MT. LOOP HIGHWAY WILL OPEN AS ALTERNATE ROUTE

The Mt. Loop Highway is now open, having been opened since Wednesday, March 26th. See KING5 news coverage, [Mt. Loop Highway opens early after mudslide](#). This opening may affect local businesses as people traveling to and from may utilize our city as both the first and last stop on their route through our city. Highway 530 is closed and the town of Darrington is cut off from direct access to I-5. The Department of Transportation states that drivers in Darrington will need to go north on Highway 530 to Highway 20 in order to avoid the closure. People can reach Darrington by going east on Highway 20 and south on Highway 530. [Crews have been working to open the Mt. Loop Highway](#) as an alternate route since word of the road closures. This opening may affect local businesses as people traveling to and from may utilize our city as both the first and last stop on their route.

Official information about the Oso Slide can be obtained from the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management at 425-388-5088 or go to the [county emergency web page](#).