



**Kitsap County
Department of Emergency Management**

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For Immediate Release

Kitsap County responds to Port Orchard tornado

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, South Kitsap Fire and Rescue and other agencies have been determining the level of damage caused by the December 18 tornado that hit south Kitsap County. We have a profound sense of gratitude and amazement that no serious injuries were experienced as a result of the storm. The focus now is to help the individuals and families as well as businesses impacted by the damage.

- Update on Category of Storm:
 - The National Weather Service team surveyed the damage and concluded that it was a strong F2 with peak wind speeds between 120-130 miles per hour
 - The tornado touched down at about Geiger Road, which is off Sedgwick. It traveled southwest to northeast, cutting across the Bethel-Salmonberry area. The heaviest damage was seen in the Harris Road-Tiburon Court area.
- Damaged Structures & Inspections:
 - Teams made up of staff from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue, Puget Sound Energy, Cascade Natural Gas, Kitsap County Department of Community Development, and Port Orchard Department of Community Development have inspected 104 of approximately 450 structures damaged in the tornado. Below are the results of the 104 inspections:
 - 6 Red Tags (Unsafe – Dangerous to Occupy)
 - 4 Yellow Tags (Limited Entry – Off limits to unauthorized personnel. The structure has been damaged and its safety is questionable. Enter at own risk.)
 - 94 Green Tags (Inspected – No restriction on use or occupancy.)
 - Each building where an inspection has occurred is now marked with a red, yellow, or green tag.
 - Homeowners, with proper identification, should check-in with law enforcement at the road closures to gain access to the restricted area.
 - Homeowners who are working with contractors, insurance adjusters or other professionals and need access to the restricted area should go to the Christian Life Center, located at 1780 SE Lincoln Ave SE in Port Orchard, to speak with staff at Incident Command.
 - It is anticipated the teams will continue the inspections after dark and arrangements are being made to provide light for them to continue the work.

- Number of Outages
 - According to Puget Sound Energy, the number of homes and businesses without power has diminished significantly since last night. For updates on power outages, please see the PSE website: <https://www.pse.com/>
- Displaced Residents:
 - Residents needing overnight shelter are welcomed to stay at the Red Cross Shelter that has been established at St. Gabriel Catholic Church at 1150 Mitchell Ave.
- Volunteers and Donations: Information on how the community will be included in future communications.
- Impacted residents can call the Kitsap1 information line which is 360-337-5777 starting Thursday morning.
- Additional document of Frequently Asked Questions are designed to help those with homes in the impacted area.

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