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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SNOW AND ICE UPDATES

Saturday, January 21, 2012

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**Emergency Declaration.** *Mayor Kmet has issued an Emergency Declaration. This declaration will be valuable in terms of seeking additional resources and potential reimbursement at a future time.*

**Traffic Signals.** Treat all non-operative traffic signals as 4-way stops.

**Trees and Limbs on Tumwater Streets.** Call Tumwater Public Works at 360-754-4150 to report downed trees and limbs on City streets. Be prepared to provide the street address and whether or not power lines are entangled in the tree. City staff will keep a list of downed trees and crews will get to them as time permits. City crews cannot remove trees entangled with power lines until PSE crews remove and repair the lines.

**Downed Power Lines.** Call 9-1-1 to report downed or hazardous power lines. City crews do not repair downed power lines. Customers without power are urged to call PSE at 1-888-225-5773 to report the outage. Call takers are available 24/7.

**All Tumwater Parks are CLOSED.** Please stay out of City parks due to hazardous conditions with heavy snow and ice on trees and paths.

**Sheltering.** If you are in need of shelter due to impacts of the winter storm, please call Thurston County Emergency Management at 360-754-3360.

**Minimal Road Closures:** Portions of a few streets in Tumwater remain closed. Staff is working to clear these streets over the weekend.

**\*Important Notice for Pressure or Grinder Sewer Systems.** When the power is out there is no way for sewage to pump out of your sewer system holding tank. Please minimize flushing and water use during a power outage. When your power returns and your pump reactivates, an alarm may sound. If the alarm continues to ring after one hour, call the phone number posted on your pump. The alarm rings because the tank is full, and the pump will need time after reactivation to clear the tank.

## **Safety Reminders:**

**Storm Drains:** If physically and safely able to, please help clear snow and debris from the top of storm drains. This will help keep water flowing as the snow begins to melt.

**Carbon Monoxide Warning.** Do not use outdoor heating or cooking appliances or generators in your home due to the potential build-up of deadly carbon monoxide gas.

**Awnings/Carports:** Please check snow and ice load on awnings and carports and safely remove excess snow and ice, if possible.

**Buildings with Flat Roofs:** Remove snow and ice from roof drains so that thawing water can flow and relieve weight pressure.

## **What You Can Do to Help:**

- Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or shut-in neighbors.
- If physically possible for you, clear the storm drains near your home to keep melting water flowing.
- Clear the sidewalk in front of your home or business.
- As with any emergency, have a minimum three-day supply of food and medicine on hand for yourself, your family, and any family pets.

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