



Detours Happen

Readiness is not an accident.

Cowlitz County Department of Public Works is preparing and planning to respond to a wide variety of emergencies. We know that it isn't IF an emergency occurs, it is WHEN.

A major part of preparedness is training. Department of Public Works staff are experts in their fields of equipment operation, engineering, accounting and utilities. Each part of the Department plays a critical role in emergency response.

Road Operations



Cowlitz County Department of Public Works keeps one modular bridge in its storage yard, ready to be deployed if needed.



A washout like Summers Creek on Kalama River Road, can completely cut homeowners off from emergency services. The Department would use an modular bridge as an emergency, short term fix to keep residents connected.



Cowlitz County snow plows hit the roads early to keep routes open for emergency vehicles and school buses.



Department engineering staff regularly inspect bridges, such as the Pacific Way Half Bridge in Kelso. In the event of a major earthquake, all bridges would require immediate inspection.



Cowlitz County can be subject to major floods, even more severe than the 1996 flooding. The flood of 1933 overflowed into Kelso and several other areas, devastating the community.



Cowlitz County Department of Public Works trains and meets regularly to keep staff up to speed and ready to respond to major emergencies.

Engineering

Utilities, Diking and Drainage

