



**SEA-Alert040401**

**For Release: April 4, 2001**

Media Alert

Internal Revenue Service

Seattle, Washington—Taxpayers in the Presidentially declared disaster areas in Washington State are reminded that if they file their federal income tax return between April 17 and April 30, 2001, they should put in big red letters “**Washington State Earthquake**” on the top margin of the paper return or form.

In order to avoid a notice of late payment and/or late filing, it is important at the time of processing the return that the annotation “**Washington State Earthquake**” is easily read by IRS service center staff.

Although electronic filing continues until October 15, 2001, taxpayers who electronically file returns showing a balance due are encouraged to do so by April 16, as the designation, **Washington State Earthquake**, cannot be done electronically.

For affected taxpayers filing between April 17 and April 30, 2001, who may receive a notice, please call 1-800-829-8815 to request information about abatement procedures. For problems not fixed through normal channels, call the Taxpayer Advocate at 1-877-777-4778.

Affected taxpayers are urged to check the IRS web site at: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on “What’s Hot” at the bottom of the page for information regarding Federal tax relief as a result of the Washington State February 28, 2001, earthquake.

Currently, 20 counties have been declared Presidential disaster areas. They are: Benton, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thruston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom and Yakima.

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