

You are receiving this publication because you live or own property in a flood hazard area.



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FLOOD SAFETY TIPS & RESOURCES





FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

There are six important things to know to protect yourself, your family and your property.

1 KNOW THE HAZARD
Clark County is susceptible to flooding from small streams and the Columbia, East Fork Lewis, North Fork Lewis and Washougal Rivers. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Washington State Department of Ecology operate river gauges which allow residents to monitor river levels before, during and after a flood. You can find links to seven gauge stations at www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/river-gauge-data.

2 KNOW YOUR OPTIONS
To assist residents in purchasing flood insurance, Clark County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. This program makes federally backed flood insurance available for all structures, whether they reside within the flood plains or not. Did you know there's a 30-day waiting period before your newly-purchased flood insurance kicks in? Please contact your insurance agent for more information. You can also contact the National Flood Insurance Program at 888-379-9531, or visit their website at: www.floodsmart.gov.

3 KNOW HOW TO PROTECT PEOPLE
NEVER walk or drive through a flooded area. Drowning is the number one cause of flood-related deaths. Currents can be deceptive; 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Additionally, more people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not move or drive around road barriers. The road or bridge ahead may be washed out, something you may not see in the dark. Fallen electrical lines can cause a charged current in standing water. Electrocution is the number two cause of death in flooding events.

4 KNOW HOW TO PROTECT PROPERTY
Practical and cost-effective methods for reducing or eliminating the risk of flooding are available to property owners whose homes have sustained damage from flooding in the past or may sustain damage in the future. Such techniques include elevating the home, relocating the home to higher ground, constructing floodwalls or berms and protecting utilities. Contact the Clark County Building Division at 564-397-4912 or find information online at



www.fema.gov/protecting-homes. County staff is available for site visits upon request.

5 KNOW YOUR PERMITS
Planning on building inside a flood plain? You must obtain a flood plain permit and/or building permit from the county. To minimize damage to structures during floods, the county requires all new construction and substantial improvements inside flood plains to be flood-proofed, elevated or otherwise protected. This includes not only structures, but the placement of fill and other grading activities, along with the storage of materials and equipment.

6 KNOW HOW TO PROTECT THE NATURAL FUNCTIONS OF FLOOD PLAINS
Flood plains provide many benefits to both human and natural systems in Clark County including providing recreation areas, healthy habitats for native wildlife, and keeping the Pacific Northwest one of the most beautiful places in the United States. Understanding and protecting their natural function can reduce flood damage and protect people and property. Residents are encouraged to learn about the natural functions of flood plains.

You can find more information about potential hazards in the Clark Regional Hazard Mitigation plan: www.clark.wa.gov/public-information-outreach/clark-regional-natural-hazard-mitigation-plan.

WEB LINKS & RESOURCES

Clark County Public Works	www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/flood-safety
Flood warnings and alerts	cresa911.org/alerts-warnings
Federal Emergency Management Agency	www.fema.gov
National Flood Insurance Program	www.floodsmart.gov
Washington Department of Ecology/Flood Plain Management	www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods