

100-year floods don't happen once every 100 years.

In the last several years, there have been numerous, intense storms that have approached or exceeded the 100-year flood level in Solano County.

Potential

Who is at risk of flooding?

Be aware if you live near a creek because there could be a high risk of flooding. Call one of the following departments and ask whether your property is in a floodplain and if it is above or below the flood stage water level.

A good rule of thumb to determine your flood risk is to consider the elevation of your home compared to the street level. Lay down on your stomach at your doorstep and note how close you are to the street level. In newly developed areas, the floor elevation can be four to five feet above the street. The newer streets were designed to store excess stormwater without flooding homes. But if your flood elevation is just above street level, there is a higher potential for flooding.

Find out if you live in a floodplain

AREA	DEPARTMENT	PHONE*
Benicia	Public Works	746-4240
Dixon	Planning	678-7000
Fairfield	Public Works	428-7471
Rio Vista	Community Development	374-2205, ext 1
Suisun	Engineering	421-7341
Vacaville	Engineering	449-5140
Vallejo	Public Works	648-5229
Unincorpor	ated areas of county:	
Solano County Environmental Management		421-6765
		421-6055
Solano Coun	ty Transportation Department	421-6055

What if I live outside of a floodplain?

Homes outside of floodplains are in danger of flooding, too. In fact, much of the flooding in recent years in Solano County has occurred outside of the floodplain. Floodplain maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency have not been updated and do not accurately include all areas at risk of flooding.

Call your local public works department if you live outside the floodplain to see if staff has information about past flooding in your area. Also, check with your neighbors.

If you live outside a floodplain

AREA	DEPARTMENT	PHONE*
Benicia	Public Works	746-4240
Dixon	Public Works	678-7053
Fairfield	Public Works	428-7407
Rio Vista	Public Works	374-6747
Suisun	Engineering	421-7341
Vacaville	Public Works	469-6500
Vallejo	Public Works	648-5229
Unincorpor	ated areas of county:	
Solano County Environmental Management		421-6765
	y Transportation Department	421-6055

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SOLANO COUNTY

Be Flood Ready!

Know the three Ps of Flooding: Potential, Prevention, Preparation

Did You Know?

A 100-year flood is often used as a benchmark for catastrophic flooding. This magnitude of flood has a one-percent chance of occurring within any given year.

A floodplain is defined by the Federal **Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** as an area prone to flooding.

A flood stage water level is the water level at which a river overflows its banks.

Prevention

Can I help prevent flooding?

Yes! Whether you live in urban or rural areas, taking precautionary measures in the fall can help prevent flood damage during the rainy season.

City residents:

- Clean out downspouts and keep trash and leaves out of the street gutters to prevent clogging the storm drains.
- Even during storms, it is possible to lower the potential for flooding by raking leaves that are clogging a storm drain.

Rural residents:

 Clearing of dead trees impeding a drainage system before the rainy season is the property owner's responsibility and doesn't require a permit.

Creek maintenance tips for rural residents:

Expanding or realigning a drainage system on private property also may help prevent flooding, however, you will likely need permits.

· Creek management involving the removal of live vegetation always requires

- a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game. Check out the facts for permit #1601 and learn more about the details at www.dfg.ca.gov, or call your regional office:
- · Central Coast Region (Southwest Solano County) 707-944-5500
- Sacramento Valley & Central Sierra Region (Northeast Solano County) 916-358-2900
- You may also be required to obtain a permit from the Solano County Department of Environmental Management. Go to **Environmental Management** at www.solanocounty.com for a copy of grading permit standards to learn how to file for a permit.
- · You may need to seek permission from other affected property owners.
- · You should check with the **U.S.Army Corps of Engineers** to see if your project requires any pre-approval. Contact the Sacramento District Regulatory Office at 916-557-5250 or the San Francisco Regulatory Branch at 415-977-8461.

Preparation

The rain has started ... now what?

Report High Waters
If you see rising waters in creeks or from clogged storm drains, please call the non-emergency number of your local police or, if you live in the county, the Office of Emergency Services or the Sheriff's Department.

Emergency officials count on the public to keep an eye out for dangerously high waters. If authorities are informed of flooding, they can investigate and notify the county, which can warn the public at any time using the computer-based telephone alerting system.

Stay Tuned

Throughout the rainy season, it is important to tune into local TV, radio station 95.3 KUIC-FM or Internet weather watch sites, such as the National Weather Service or The Weather Channel. Also, log on to www.solanocounty.com/oes for emergency information such as road closures and sandbag locations.

Stock Up
Another precautionary
measure to take before rain
starts is to purchase sandbags,
plywood and plastic sheeting
for protection of your property.

Visit the FEMA Web site, www.fema.gov and request a free copy of the Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House From Flooding and other information.

What supplies should I have on hand?

Prepare a family disaster supply kit that would allow you to be self-sufficient for 72 hours. Some recommended items for your kit include:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Cash and credit cards
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries tuned to a local station
- Non-perishable foods and a non-electric can opener
- First aid kit and manual
- Cell phone, charger and batteries
- Essential and prescribed medications
- Personal address book and telephone list

Visit www.solanocounty.com/ oes for a complete list. Also, remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance — infants, elderly people and people with disabilities.





Important Flood Survival Tips

- If floodwaters reach your door, call 911.
- Don't drive through a flooded area more people drown in their cars than anywhere else in a flood.
- Don't park along city streets.
- Don't walk through flooded areas. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires as electric currents pass easily through water.
- Look out for animals especially snakes.
 Animals lose their homes, too, and they may seek shelter in yours.

For More Information

- National Weather Service, www.crh.noaa.gov
- The Weather Channel, www.weather.com
- American Red Cross, www.redcross.org
- National Severe Storms Laboratory, www.nssl.noaa.gov
- Floodplain Management Association, www.floodplain.org
- California State Water Resources Control Board, www.swrcb.ca.gov
- State of California Department of Water Resources, www.water.ca.gov

This brochure is brought to you by the Solano County Water Agency and Office of Emergency Services.



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