

WHEN IT FLOODS...

Be prepared! Get details about flooding at kingcounty.gov/floodservices

BEFORE

1 Know your flood hazard. If you were mailed this newsletter, your home or property is in or near a floodplain. Learn more at kingcounty.gov/FEMAMap or call 206-477-4812.

2 Buy flood insurance. Standard homeowners insurance does not cover loss caused by flooding, and there can be a 30-day waiting period on new flood insurance policies.

Learn more at floodsmart.gov or call 800-427-4661.

3 Protect yourself and your family.

- Update emergency plans for your family, farm, or business and choose a meeting place in case family members get separated.
- Know several routes from your home or business to high ground.
- Use sandbags to protect your home or property (see inside map for free distribution locations).
- Pick an out-of-state friend or relative to call with information if local lines are busy.
- Assemble an emergency kit (see below).
- Talk to neighbors about flood preparedness, previous experiences, and any special assistance you or they may need.

4 Protect your property and pets from flood hazards.

- Move vehicles, equipment, and livestock/pets to higher ground and store valuables and household chemicals above flood levels.
- Anchor and secure propane tanks and other fuel containers.
- Install check valves in building sewer traps to prevent floodwaters from backing up in sewer drains.
- Never dump waste in storm drains; dispose of litter and animal waste in trash cans; and sweep sidewalks, gutters, driveways, and other paved surfaces. Clean storm drains require less maintenance and help keep our rivers and streams clean for drinking, wildlife, and recreation.

REGISTER FOR ALERTS

Visit kingcounty.gov/flood to sign up for alerts for different river systems in King County.

DURING

1 Do not walk, swim, or drive through flooded areas. Turn around. Don't drown.

2 If your vehicle stalls in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible. Walk back to safety the way you came.

3 Call the King County Flood Warning Center at 206-296-8200 or 800-945-9263 for information on flood conditions and forecasts.

4 Be prepared for an evacuation notice from authorities. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Follow recommended evacuation routes, as shortcuts may be blocked.

5 If you are unable to safely leave your home or a building due to rapidly rising waters, call 911 for help. Then move to a higher floor or to the roof. Take warm, weatherproof clothing, a flashlight, a mobile phone, and a portable radio.

6 When flooding is imminent, but only if time permits:

- Close your main gas valve.
- Turn off all utilities in your building at the main power switch. Do not touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area or you are standing on a piece of dry wood while wearing rubber-soled shoes and rubber gloves.
- Record flood statistics such as time, gage reading, and local flood elevations for future use in understanding flooding in your neighborhood. Include specific observations at your home or business.

NEED HELP?

Call 206-477-4812 if you need help looking up a property, need to confirm your property is in a floodplain, or want more information about elevation certificates.

AFTER

1 Before reentering your home, be cautious of potential structural damage, gas leaks, electrical shorts, and live wires.

2 Have a professional check your heating system electrical panel, outlets, and appliances for safety before using. Call the gas company to have the gas turned back on.

3 Follow procedures for safe cleanup of household items, food, water supply, and property.

4 Document your losses. Photograph damage and record repair costs. Contact your insurance agent for flood loss claims.

5 Mark the high water point in your home or damaged structure.

6 Pump out flooded basements gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid structural damage.

7 Do not dump sand from sandbags into creeks as it impairs water quality. Store for future use.

8 Check your local news outlets for updates on disaster assistance and registration procedures.

Build Responsibly

Any development in the floodplain needs a permit. New construction, building repairs, additions, excavation, grading, fill, or any other change to your property must be permitted and follow the standards in your community's floodplain management regulations. Any repairs or improvements to buildings in the floodplain that exceed 50 percent of their value are required to be elevated or flood-proofed.

Building responsibly ensures that people and buildings are safer from flooding. Floodplain management regulations make our flood-prone areas less dangerous for all who live and work there by reducing each development's impact on other properties.

Before starting a project, contact your jurisdiction's permitting agency or the King County Department of Local Services, Permitting Division at 206-296-6600 or go to kingcounty.gov/permits.

Recommended Emergency Kit Supplies

 More at: Ready.gov/kit

- Battery- or crank-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid supplies and a whistle
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Copies of important documents in a plastic bag (driver's license, insurance and bank information, and contact information)
- Several days' worth of water and nonperishable food for your family and animals
- Warm clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, and blankets
- Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies
- Prescription medicines
- Comfort items for children (blanket, books, toys)
- Cell phone with chargers and backup batteries