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 point so 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: practice 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 or 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 other contains in trash cans, and sewers sidekicks, gutters, driveways, and other paved surfaces. Clean storm drains with leaves and maintenance while 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, wade, or drive through flooded areas. Turn around. Don’t drive.
2. If your vehicle stalls in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible. Walk back the way you came to safety.

NEED HELP?
Call 206-477-4812 if you need help unloading a property, need to confirm your property is in the floodplain, or want more information about a meeting, floodreadiness.

AFTER
1. Before reentering your home, be cautious of potential hazards: 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.
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 or storm drains without permits. Use for additional materials.
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 approved and follow the standards in your community’s floodplain-management regulations. Any reverts or improvements to buildings in the floodplain exceed 20% of the current value are subject to be raised or flood-proofed.

Building responsibly ensures that people and buildings are in less harm flooding. Floodplain 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 206-266-5600 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
- Extra 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
- Comfort items for children (blankets, books, toys)
- Cell phone with chargers and backup batteries

Flood Ready Together
A message from the King County Flood Control District

In 2021, our region experienced the devastating impacts that flooding can have on communities. Whether here in the U.S. or overseas, catastrophic flooding has destroyed homes, businesses, and schools; caused widespread power outages; forced thousands to flee their properties; and, sadly, led to loss of life. It’s a stark reminder that flood risk is real, and we need to be prepared.

As the King County Flood Control District works to protect people and property from flooding, it is increasingly employing an integrated floodplain management approach to its projects. This integrated approach empowers the District for holistic flood risk protection: public safety and infrastructure, and also seeks to protect our environment and improve the resiliency of our communities.

While the District’s work is a key to flood preparedness and resiliency, we all have a role to play in preparing for floods. Together we can save lives, support our economy, and care for our planet. Here’s what you can do:

- Know your flood risk. Visit kingcounty.gov/FEMAmap to check any address in King County or call 206-477-4812.
- Obtain flood insurance. Go to floodsmart.gov to rate your flood risk, understand coverage, and purchase flood insurance.
- Stay informed. Sign up for King County Flood Alerts and download the King County Flood Warning App at kingcounty.gov/flood.
- Turn around. Don’t drown. Never walk, swim, or drive through floodwaters.
- Share this information with your loved ones. Inform your friends and family.

Thank you for all that you are doing to prepare for the upcoming flood season. Together, we can ensure our communities stay safe.

This is a message from the King County Flood Control District, Chair, King County Flood Control District, Dave Upthegrove, to sign up for alerts for different river systems in King County.

FREE KING COUNTY FLOOD WARNING APP
Get real time flooding info with our free app! Monitor current river flows, river stage data, forecasts, and real-time flood phases.
Sign up at kingcounty.gov/flood.

STAY INFORMED
Visit kingcounty.gov/flood or call 206-477-4899

Beyond River Basins: A Holistic Approach to Floodplains
King County is home to several river watersheds that carry water flows from the Cascade Mountains to Puget Sound. These rivers pass through forested, agricultural, and highly urbanized areas. Our normally wet Pacific Northwest weather, coupled with global trends of shifting weather patterns and heavy rain, mean that flooding is a significant threat.

Historically, rivers in King County have flooded in every month except August. River flooding has led to 13 presidentially declared disasters in King County since 1990. The most recent flooding disaster was declared in 2020.

To reduce the risk to people and property from river flooding, the King County Flood Control District invests in regional programs and projects. More recently, the approach to flood management has encompassed entire floodplains, not just the river basins.

While flood risk reduction is the top priority, addressing the floodplains more broadly achieves additional goals of social justice, equity, and environmental protection. This integrated approach supports habitat protection and salmon recovery; resilient communities and ecosystems; productive and viable agriculture; sustainable development; jobs and sustainable livelihoods; open space conservation; recreation; opportunities to connect people with nature; and clean water for all.

While our rivers and rainfall mean that flooding always is a risk for our area, we can prepare, manage the risk, and use smart planning to benefit both our communities and our environment.

FOLLOW US!
Phone, text message, email.
Sign up for free automated flood alerts. You can personalize alerts by river and flood phase.

kingcounty.gov/flood

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Materiales traducidos y servicios de intérprete están disponibles bajo solicitud. 206-477-4899 777-771