

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, gauge 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



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kingcountyfloodcontrol.org

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2023-2024

BE FLOOD READY

YOUR GUIDE TO FLOOD PREPAREDNESS IN KING COUNTY



Hello!

If you are receiving this brochure by mail, your home or property is in or near a floodplain.

KING COUNTY RIVERS MAP ➔



Chair Reagan Dunn

Working Together for a Flood-Resilient Tomorrow

A message from the King County Flood Control District

As days grow colder and shorter, King County residents must start preparing for the most common natural disaster in our area—flooding. Floods can injure people, displace families, and close businesses. They threaten lives,

homes, farms, and infrastructure. The King County Flood Control District (District) is here to help you prepare for, withstand, and recover from flooding.

As Chair of the District, I am proud of the strides we have made together to minimize the impact of flooding across King County. Our efforts have protected lives, restored natural habitats, and provided new greenspaces for our communities to enjoy. We have invested in infrastructure improvements that reduce flood risks while also striving to be good stewards of our natural environment.

Preparing for this year's flood season isn't just about reacting to a threat; it's about proactively building a community ready to face anything, together. Your actions can make a difference. Please do your part by reviewing this brochure and taking steps to Be Flood Ready today:

- **Understand your flood risk.** Don't be caught off guard. Visit kingcounty.gov/floodmaps or call 206-477-4812.

- **Get insured.** Explore floodsmart.gov to understand your options, estimate premiums, and connect with an agent.

- **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.

Now is the time to prepare. Thank you for taking these important steps to protect yourself, your family, and our community. Together, we've got this!

Reagan Dunn

Reagan Dunn
Chair, King County Flood Control District

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King County Flood Control District leaders celebrate completion of the Lower Russell Levee Setback Project with Tribal, City and Community partners. June 2023.

Celebrating a Key Community Project and Green Infrastructure: A Sustainable Approach to Flood Risk Reduction

The King County Flood Control District (District) proudly celebrated the completion of its largest capital investment ever in June 2023—the Lower Russell Levee Setback Project. The project replaced 1.4 miles of an aging and failing levee with a new setback levee and floodwall built to contain a 500-year flood event. Its benefits don't stop at our mission of flood risk reduction; the project also provides lush community greenspaces and the vital restoration of riverbank and backwater habitats for juvenile salmon. Van Doren's Landing Park, reopened in May 2023, includes new amenities like a Mt. Rainier-inspired play structure, a wiffle ball field, new pickleball courts, and paved connections to the Green River Trail.

The Green River Valley, in addition to being home to thousands of residents, is a vital hub for Washington State's economy—contributing over one-eighth of the state's GDP. This project emphasizes the District's commitment to public safety, environmental restoration, and the economy.

From rain barrels to riparian buffers, our region's shift towards green infrastructure marks promising strides in ecological conservation and community resilience. The District supports numerous green infrastructure projects via Flood Reduction Grants, benefitting both urban and rural areas. To date, the District has provided over \$47 million in Flood Reduction Grants to help Tribes, local jurisdictions, and non-profits reduce flooding.

The Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) helps residents access the RainWise rebate program to install rain gardens and cisterns on their property. ECOSS particularly aids non-native English speakers by connecting them with contractors and guiding them through the rebate process. The District is now working with ECOSS to explore rainwater-collecting pocket parks under overpasses and other green infrastructure options as they reach out to businesses in the lower Duwamish River valley.

The Snoqualmie Stewardship Program has also implemented several projects funded by Flood Reduction Grants. They have built rain gardens with Carnation Elementary School, Carnation Library, Griffin Creek Farm, and are in the process of developing one for the City of Duval. In 2022, they restored 1.8 acres of habitat, placed over 8,000 plants, and received massive contributions from community volunteers.

STAY INFORMED

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.



FOLLOW US!

@KCFloodDistrict and @KCDNRP

@KingCountyDNRP

@KingCountyDNRP

PHONE, TEXT MESSAGE, OR EMAIL

Sign up for free automated flood alerts. You can personalize alerts by river and flood phase.

kingcounty.gov/flood or call **206-477-4899**

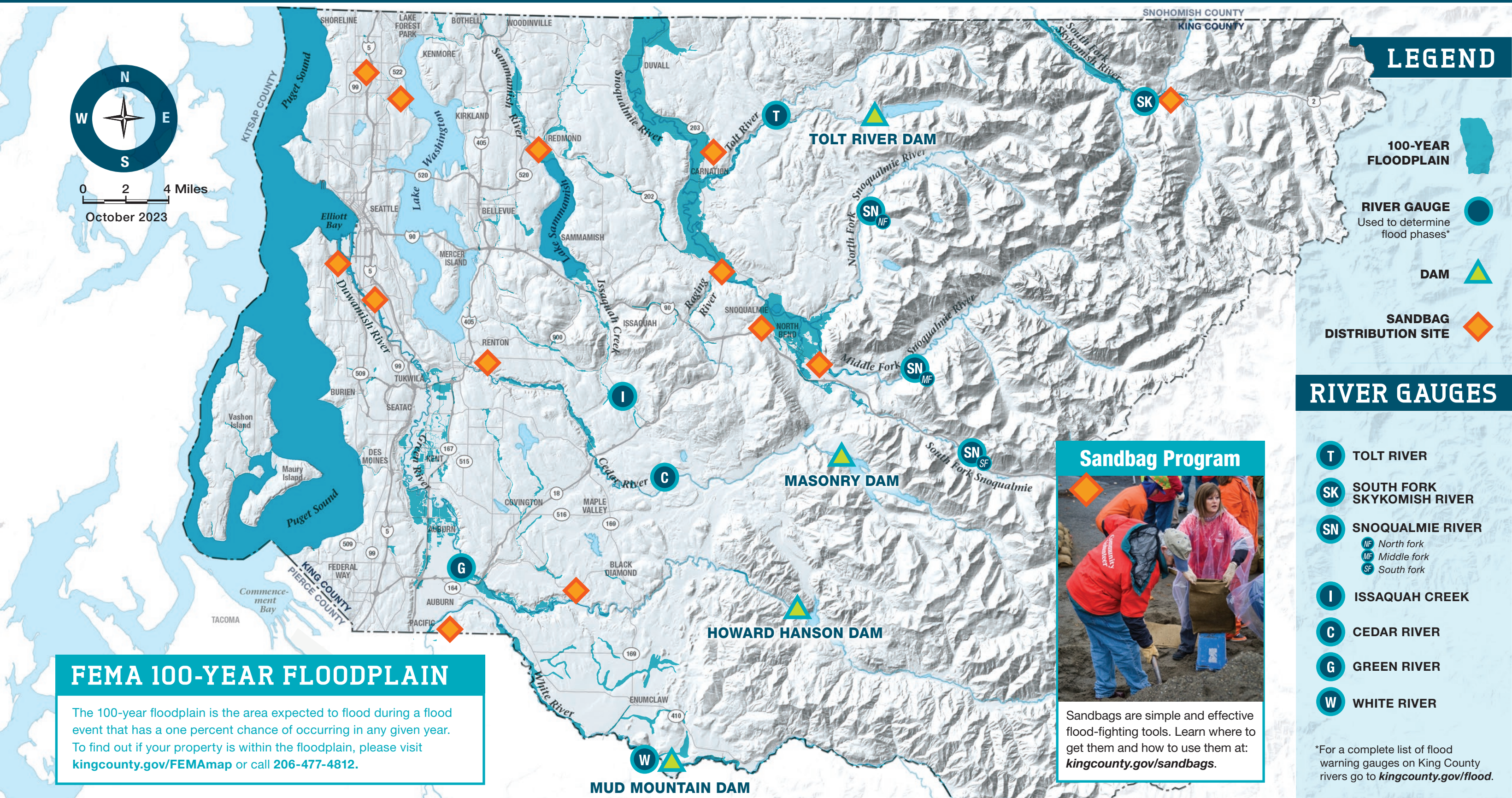
KING COUNTY FLOOD ALERT!

KING COUNTY RIVER SYSTEMS

KING COUNTY FLOOD WARNING CENTER



206-296-8200 or 800-945-9263 Interpreter services available; TTY: 711.
Materiales traducidos y servicios de intérprete están disponible bajo solicitud: 206-477-4812; TTY: 711.



EMERGENCY FLOOD INFORMATION

How to Prepare for a Flood
kingcounty.gov/floodservices

King County Emergency Alert
kingcounty.gov/alert

King County Emergency News Blog
kcemergency.com

King County Flood Alerts
206-477-4899
kingcounty.gov/flood

King County Flood Warning Center
206-296-8200 or 800-945-9263

King County Housing Repair Program
Funding for major necessary housing repairs to low-income, eligible homeowners.
206-263-9095
kingcounty.gov/housingrepair

King County Road 24/7 Helpline
206-477-8100 or 800-KC-ROADS

King County Road Alerts
kingcounty.gov/roadalert

Metro Transit Disruptions
kingcounty.gov/metro

National Flood Insurance Program
800-427-4661
floodsmart.gov

Public Health Seattle & King County Septic Tank and Well Problems
206-477-8050



King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

The information included on this map has been compiled by King County from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. King County and the King County Flood Control District make no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. This document is not intended for use as a survey product. King County and the District shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited except by written permission of King County.

FLOOD PHASES

King County uses four phases to reflect river flood conditions. The higher the phase, the more water is flowing in our rivers and the more likely we are to experience flooding.

4 Severe Flooding

Extensive flooding with fast moving water. Widespread road closures throughout river valleys. The Flood Warning Center remains open. Flood Patrol increases frequency of inspections.

3 Moderate Flooding

Flooding of varied depth may occur. Multiple road closures including arterials are possible. Flood Patrol staff visit flood-prone areas and inspect flood control structures.

2 Minor Flooding

Erosion, flood damage, and road closures are possible in some locations. King County Flood Warning Center opens. Staff are available 24 hours a day to help.

1 Prepare

No flooding typically occurs. King County staff are on alert.

Visit kingcounty.gov/flood for a detailed description of conditions at each flood phase for the South Fork Skykomish, Tolt, Snoqualmie, Cedar, Green, and White rivers and Issaquah Creek.

For translated Be Flood Ready brochures please go to kingcounty.gov/prepareforflooding. Additional translations and printed translated brochures are available upon request at no cost to you, please contact us at 206-477-4812.

Para obtener los folletos traducidos de Be Flood Ready, visite kingcounty.gov/prepareforflooding. Si lo pide, hay traducciones adicionales y folletos traducidos impresos sin costo alguno para usted; comuníquese con nosotros al 206-477-4812.

Để nhận bản dịch tờ gấp Sẵn Sàng Ứng Phó Với Ngập Lụt, vui lòng truy cập kingcounty.gov/prepareforflooding. Chúng tôi cung cấp miễn phí các bản dịch khác và bản cứng tờ gấp đã dịch theo yêu cầu cho quý vị. Vui lòng liên hệ với chúng tôi theo số 206-477-4812.

번역된 홍수 대비 브로셔는 웹사이트 kingcounty.gov/prepareforflooding 를 참조하세요. 추가 번역 및 인쇄된 번역 브로셔가 필요하면 요청 시 무료로 드립니다. 206-477-4812로 문의하세요.

如需「Be Flood Ready (做好防洪準備)」手冊的翻譯版本, 請造訪 kingcounty.gov/prepareforflooding 如果您需要額外的翻譯版本和紙質翻譯版手冊, 請致電 206-477-4812 聯絡我們, 我們將免費為您提供

Si aad u hesho buug-yaraha u diyaarsanoow daadka faadlan booqo kingcounty.gov/prepareforflooding. Turjumaada dheeraadka ah iyo buug-yaraha la daabacay ayaad ku heli kartaa si bilaash ah markaaad adiga codsato, faadlan nagala soo xiriir 206-477-4812.

Переведенные брошюры Be Flood Ready (Подготовка к наводнению) можно найти на странице kingcounty.gov/prepareforflooding. Чтобы бесплатно запросить перевод на другие языки или печатный экземпляр переведенной брошюры, звоните на номер 206-477-4812.