Planning for your animals in an emergency: They’re counting on you
Planning for your cats, dogs, home or other furry, feathered or scaly animals in a flood event is a critical part of preparing for flood season.

First, make sure all pets have an identification tag with their name, your name, your address and mobile number where you can be reached. A King County license tag can provide identifying information, as well.

Next, identify a location where your pet would be welcomed if you need to leave your property and you can’t keep animals with you. Find out if local extended family or friends can accommodate you and your animals during an emergency and check the web for pet friendly lodging in your area. Regional veterinary clinics or other pet boarding facilities should be contacted prior to an emergency to explore your options. Identify alternative pastures if you have livestock and do not have a farm pad or elevated structure for them.

Emergency responders all too often see animal owners attempting to return to their home in an emergency to rescue animals left behind, despite danger. These pets, animals, owners and rescuers personnel at risk. So make your plan today for every family member to leave early and safely when it floods.

For more information about disaster planning and pet care, visit www.kingcounty.gov/pets.

Building in a floodplain?
What you need to know
You may know a floodplain is an area that stores water during a flood event and reduces the frequency, severity and duration of surface water flows. But did you know that floodplains also recharge our groundwater supply and provide habitat for diverse species of plants and animals – some of which cannot live anywhere else?

That’s why certain activities, such as building construction, repairs or improvements and grading excavation and fill require a permit. Repairs or improvements to an existing structure that exceed 10 percent of its value are required to be flood protected and meet regulatory standards. Contact the King County Department of Development and Environmental Services for more information or to report potential illegal development at 206-296-6002 or visit www.kingcounty.gov/Permits. If you live in an incorporated area, please contact your local jurisdiction.

The King County Flood Warning Center: At your service
When river levels begin to rise, the King County Flood Warning Center opens and is staffed 24 hours a day to coordinate and distribute information until the rivers recede.

Our Flood Warning Center staff is available to take your calls about flood conditions in your area, provide you with real-time flood information and answer your flood-related questions. We have the latest information about road closures, sandbag distribution, dam releases, flood predictions, evacuation orders and emergency services.

A critical part of flood response is our King County flood patrol staff who routinely inspect riverbanks, levees and occasionally private property for potentially dangerous conditions. They travel in King County vehicles and wear safety gear so they can be easily seen and identified. Patrols report back to the Flood Warning Center and can investigate concerns identified by residents.

So keep this number handy if you need our help during a flood: King County Flood Warning Center: 206-296-8200 or 800-768-7932. Or go to www.kingcounty.gov/flood.

F Y I : Ki ng Co unty is updati ng i ts Flood Plan
Just like you, we have a plan. But our flood plan is a few pages longer than yours and takes more time to update. We want to make sure we hear from you, so we’re holding three public meetings in December and we’ll provide a draft plan for your feedback, prior to finalizing it in early 2013.

The King County Flood Plan lays out contemporary strategies to reduce flood risks to tens of thousands of people, billions of dollars in economic infrastructure and major transportation corridors. The update will cover emerging issues such as levee certification, vegetation management along rivers and considering social justice and project prioritization. If you would like to be on our Flood Plan update email notification list, please call 206-296-8001 or send an email to WLR-rivers@kingcounty.gov. For more information go to: www.kingcounty.gov/floodservices.

Save the date: Flood Plan update open house

- Tuesday, Dec. 4 - Carnation
- Wednesday, Dec. 5 - Renton
- Thursday, Dec. 6 - Auburn

Tell us how we’re doing!
What do you think about King County’s flood risk reduction services?

Sign up today to receive automated flood alerts by phone, text message or email when a river near you starts to flood.
www.kingcounty.gov/flood 206-263-3400

King County Flood Warning Center: 206-296-4535 or 800-768-7932. www.kingcounty.gov/flood

Alternative Formats Available
206-296-8001 (TTY Relay: 711)

www.kingcounty.gov/Pets

 Facebook

Follow King County on Facebook

Sign up today to receive automated flood alerts by phone, text message or email when a river near you starts to flood. www.kingcounty.gov/flood 206-263-3400

King County Flood Warning Center: 206-296-4535 or 800-768-7932. www.kingcounty.gov/flood

Alternative Formats Available
206-296-8001 (TTY Relay: 711)
King County’s Flood Warning Phases

**Before a flood**

1. Know if you are in a flood prone area. Go to www.kingcounty.gov/flood

2. Find out the flood risk of your property. Go to www.kingcounty.gov/flood

3. Buy flood insurance. Standard homeowners insurance does not cover loss caused by flooding and underwriters may demand a mandatory 30-day waiting period on new National Flood Insurance Program policies.

4. Update emergency plans for your family or farm.

5. Know several safe routes from your home or business to high ground.

6. Establish warning places in case family members are separated.

7. Designate an out-of-state contact to call if local lines are busy.

8. Assemble an emergency kit (see below).

9. Talk to neighbors about flood preparedness, previous experiences and any need for special assistance.

10. Minimize potential flood damage.

**During a flood**

1. Do not walk, wade or drive through flooded areas.

2. Monitor local news outlets for emergency updates.

3. Be prepared to evacuate. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

4. If your vehicle stalls in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible and walk to high ground.

5. Follow recommended evacuation routes, as shortcuts may be blocked.

6. If you are unable to safely leave your home or a building due to rapidly rising waters, call 911 for help.

7. Move to higher ground or to the roof. Take emergency supply kits with you.

8. Close your main gas valve.

9. Turn off utilities in your building as the main power switch.

10. Do not touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area or you are standing on a dry wooden floor that is not in contact with water.

11. Record flood statistics such as time, gage reading, and other contact information.

12. For additional protection, dress in rubber boots, rubber gloves.

**After a flood**

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

2. Have your qualified contractor 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 clean-up of household items.

4. Document your losses. Photograph damages and other contact information.

5. Consult your insurance agent for the required documentation.

6. Mark the highest point where water was in your home or damaged structure.

7. Remove and empty sandbags properly.

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

**Flood fighting with sandbags**

Sandbags can prevent or reduce flooding on your property by creating a flood barrier and diverting water away from property damage. Contact your local fire department or flood control district and sandbag suppliers in advance. During a flood event, call the King County Flood Warning Center to find out if free emergency sandbag supplies are available.

After a flood, you must remove sandbags in compliance with your local jurisdiction’s regulations. Sandbag information is also available at www.kingcounty.gov/flood.