



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A FLOOD?

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS





LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S FLOODING HISTORY:

Los Angeles County has experienced eight rainy seasons generated by El Nino conditions and eleven federally declared flood disasters since 1975, many of which resulted in significant flood damages to residential properties. During the 1997-1998 El Nino season, nearly 300 drainage complaints were documented with approximately 400 flood insurance claims filed. Being prepared is your best defense against such events



POTENTIAL FLOODING LOCATIONS:

You have received this booklet because the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) have identified one or more of your properties as being subject to flooding due to:

1. Being located in or near a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), subject to the 100 year flood, according to FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or
2. Being identified as a Repetitive Loss Property with more than one flood insurance claim of at least \$1,000 within a 10-year period, or
3. Being located near a Repetitive Loss Property and likely subject to similar flooding.

Historically, flooding has occurred in Lancaster, Malibu Lake, Quartz Hill, Rowland Heights, and the San Gabriel and Santa Monica mountains. Properties in these areas are near steep hillsides where rainwater runs off quickly flooding areas along the hillside. Other properties are near a stream or lake where rainwater tends to run off quickly resulting in flooding of the adjacent areas.

To identify your property's flood risk, Public Works provides flood zone determinations through our hotline. FEMA maps are also available on-line and at County Public Libraries.



PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE FOR PROTECTION:

The County of Los Angeles is a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participant since December 1980 making flood insurance available to all County unincorporated area residents. You can purchase a flood insurance policy from most insurance agents.

More than 25 percent of flood insurance claims occur outside of SFHAs. Homeowner's insurance seldom covers flood damage. In most cases, property owners must purchase flood insurance to protect against damage caused by flooding.

The cost of your flood insurance policy will depend on factors that include, but are not limited to, type of property, level of flood risk, and amount of coverage selected. Coverage can also be purchased for the contents of the building. Elevation Certificates may provide a discount on your flood insurance policy. Check our website for more information on Elevation Certificates or to see if a completed Elevation Certificate is available for your property.

Contact your insurance agent for more information. Visit Public Works NFIP website.

See the Resources Quick Guide section for web addresses and other related information.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO BEFORE A FLOOD?

- Purchase flood insurance
- Understand and be aware of your property's flood risk
- Research flood mitigation information
- Prepare family emergency response plan
- Prepare your home for floods
- Make disaster kits
- Register your cell telephone number and/or email for automated notification in emergencies with Alert LA County at <http://portal.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla>
- Request Public Works mudflow advice by calling (800) 214-4020, if your home is located within a recently burned watershed

Visit Public Works NFIP and ESP websites.

See the Resources Quick Guide section for web addresses and other related information.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO DURING A FLOOD?

- Initiate your family's emergency response plan
- Listen to radio or TV emergency broadcasts
- Follow instructions from emergency and local officials
- Turn off the electricity and gas
- Report interrupted service to local utility companies
- Stay out of flood control channels and watercourses
- Do not drive or walk through moving water
- Avoid low-lying areas
- Do not swim in rising water
- Seek shelter in the highest areas possible
- If you are in danger, call 911 for assistance

Visit ESP website.

See the Resources Quick Guide section for web addresses and other related information.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO AFTER A FLOOD?

- Listen to radio or TV for emergency instructions
- Call utility companies to restore service
- Dispose of flood contaminated supplies
- Boil tap water until local officials indicate safe to drink
- Avoid disaster areas
- Stay away from electrical equipment in wet areas
- Avoid driving if possible
- Do not use open flame devices
- Obtain permit for property damage repairs
- Hire only licensed and insured contractors

Visit ESP website.

See the Resources Quick Guide section for web addresses and other related information.

FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR YOUR PROPERTY:

- Elevate structure above flood waters
- Flood proof structure to limit water intrusion
- Deflect flood waters with temporary devices (i.e. sandbags which are available at County Fire Stations)
- Clear drainage paths on your property
- Report illegal dumping and obstructions in drainage channels by calling (888) CLEANLA
- Seal doors and windows
- Install permanent drainage devices (i.e. French drains)
- Control erosion with plantings, grading, and drains
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CODE COMPLIANCE FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS:

Substantial improvements are defined as improvements which cost at least 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the improvement is made. Substantial damage is defined as damage to a structure where the cost of restoring it to its prior condition would cost at least 50 percent of its market value before the damage.

Structures determined to be substantially damaged are automatically considered substantial improvements. Projects involving substantial improvements must meet applicable NFIP requirements for new buildings such as elevating the structure above the flood waters.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District was established in 1915 under the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act. Its boundaries encompass approximately 2,752 square miles. The District's Mission is to construct, operate, and maintain an advanced system for flood protection, improving water quality and conserving water, while maximizing habitat, open space and recreational opportunities.

The District's powers are exercised through the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors acting as its governing body. The District operates and maintains 14 major flood control dams and reservoirs, 487 miles of open channels, 79,957 catch basins, 2,919 miles of underground storm drain conduits, 62 pump plants, 155 sediment entrapment basins, 234 crib dams, 27 sediment placement sites, 27 spreading grounds, 24 low-flow diversion structures, and 3 seawater intrusion barriers.



BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS OF FLOODPLAINS:

Floodplains are a natural component of the County of Los Angeles environment. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated. This results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of the streambank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed, and improved groundwater recharge.

Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitat, and blend with the natural environment. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties, degradation of water quality, and decreased quality of life.

Understanding and protecting the natural functions of floodplains will help reduce flood damage, protect resources, and extend the enjoyment of this important natural resource for years to come.





AVAILABLE FLOOD PROTECTION PUBLICATIONS AT DESIGNATED COUNTY LIBRARIES

Visit our County Libraries or Public Works NFIP website to review the below documents. See the Resources Quick Guide section for library and web addresses and other related information.

- FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps effective September 26, 2008 and also available at <http://www.msc.fema.gov>
- FEMA-15 (12/81) Design Manual for Flood Drainage Reduction
- FEMA-54 (3/84) Elevated Residential Structures
- FEMA-85 (9/85) Manufactured Home Installation in Flood Hazard Areas
- FEMA-100 (3/86) A Unified National Program for Floodplain Management (MalibuLibrary only)
- FEMA-102 (3/86) Floodproofing Non-Residential Structures (Valencia Library only)
- FEMA-165 (5/89) Alluvial Fans Hazards and Management
- FIA-2 (2/87) Answers to Questions About the National Flood Insurance Program
- FEMA-309 (1996) Addressing Your Community's Flood Problems
- FEMA-467-1 (5/04) Floodplain Management Bulletin on the Elevation Certificate
- EMA-312 (6/98) Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting

AVAILABLE FLOOD PROTECTION PUBLICATIONS AT DESIGNATED COUNTY LIBRARIES (CONT.)

- Additional FEMA resources available for download at <http://www.fema.gov/library/index.jsp>
- Homeowner's Guide for Flood, Debris, and Erosion Control, by Public Works and available at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/HomeOwners/>
- Be Flood Aware, published by Public Works
- Homeowner's Guide to Fire and Watershed Safety at the Chaparral/Urban Interface, by the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department
- Floodplain Management Plan for Repetitive Loss Properties by Public Works adopted by the Board of Supervisors on May 11, 2010
- The San Gabriel River and Montebello Forebay Water Conservation System, by Public Works and available at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Publication/system/index.cfm>
- Floodplain Management Resource Center by Association of State Floodplain Managers
- For monthly tips and advice on emergency survival for all recognized local hazards, visit the County's Emergency Survival Program (ESP) at <http://lacoa.org/esp.htm>



RESOURCES QUICK GUIDE:

Flood Protection Information Available at these Libraries:

Malibu Library

23519 West Civic Center Way
Malibu, CA 90265

Valencia Library

23743 West Valencia Boulevard
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Rosemead Library

8800 Valley Boulevard
Rosemead, CA 91770

Resource Websites:

Public Works NFIP Website
dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/nfip/

Coordinated Agency Recovery Effort (CARE)
dpw.lacounty.gov/CARE/

Chief Executive Office
Emergency Survival Program (ESP)
lacoa.org/esp.htm

FEMA Elevation Certificate Form
and Instructions
www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm

FEMA Flood Insurance Information
www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodins/infocon.shtm

FEMA FIRM Maps
msc.fema.gov

FEMA NFIP Website
www.fema.gov

NFIP Flood Smart Website
www.floodsmart.gov

Contractors State License Board
www.cslb.ca.gov

RESOURCES QUICK GUIDE:

Telephone Numbers:

Public Works Flood Zone Hotline	(626) 458-4321
Public Works Building and Safety Division	(626) 458-3173
Public Works Mud Flow Advice	(800) 214-4020
Public Works Illegal Dumping Hotline	(888) CLEANLA
NFIP Flood Insurance Information	(888) FLOOD29
Emergency Survival Program (ESP)	(323) 980-2260
Floodsmart.gov Official NFIP Website	(888) 379-9531
State Contractors and License Information	(800) 321-CSLB

This information is provided by the County of Los Angeles and is applicable only to properties within the limits of the County. This newsletter was prepared to educate you about the flood hazards and the things you can do to protect yourself, your family, and your property from floods.



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