

ISSAQUAH FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

The Issaquah Flood Warning System provides residents and businesses with information on impending flooding conditions so that they can take proper defensive actions and prepare themselves. Depending on your location and the extent of the flooding, the system can usually provide 3 to 4 hours lead time.

The City of Issaquah posts flood phase information (and updates as conditions change) through its:

- **Recorded Phone Line:** 425.837.3028
- **Radio Station:** 1700 AM
- **TV Station:** ICTV Channel 21
- **Web site:** www.ci.issaquah.wa.us

Flood Warning System does not take the place of individuals and neighborhood groups making their own flood disaster plan.

High water and flooding most commonly occur from October through April during periods of intense rainfall or rapid snowmelt. Issaquah Creek is independent from other rivers and streams. When other rivers in the area are flooding, it does not necessarily mean that Issaquah Creek will flood. Conversely, Issaquah Creek may flood, while other rivers in the area may not.

Issaquah residents are encouraged to keep informed of changing stream conditions and make early preparations in case of major flooding.

INDIVIDUAL FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

BE PREPARED WITH:

PROCEDURES

Family meeting place
 Evacuation routes
 Emergency housing
 Pet and livestock safety
 Flood insurance
 Emergency info
 Phone numbers near phone
 Sand and bags

SUPPLIES

Food and drinking water
 First aid kit
 Medicines
 Blankets, warm clothing
 Raingear/waterproof tarp
 Portable radio, Batteries
 Candles, flashlights
 Shovels

BEFORE THE FLOOD

1. Know if you are in a flood-prone area. Call Public Works Engineering at 425-837-3400 or view flood maps on the City's Web site: www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/flood.
2. Each year, update flood procedures to be followed by your family or business. This includes:
 - Make sure all family members know the emergency phone numbers.
 - Learn the safest route from your home or business to safe, high ground.
 - Get familiar with the Issaquah Flood Warning System, as outlined in this brochure.
 - Set up your own neighborhood notification network.
3. Find out the timing and extent of flooding in your neighborhood based on the readings at the gauge.
4. Talk to neighbors and share information on preparedness and previous experiences. Remember, the next flood may be greater than anything you have seen before.
5. Minimize flood damages:
 - Store valuables at higher elevation (second story if possible).
 - Store household chemicals above flood levels.
 - Ensure that underground storage tanks are fully sealed and secure.
6. Keep a portable radio, emergency cooking equipment, flashlights, fresh batteries, non-perishable food and drinking water on hand.

7. Keep drains and grates on catch basins free of leaves and debris.
8. Purchase flood insurance to protect your property. Homeowner's insurance normally doesn't cover flood loss.
9. Fill in additional information on the Flood Warning System chart (reverse) for your own flood emergency plans.
10. If flooding is forecasted, place sandbags around your home. See sandbagging guidelines in this flyer.

DURING THE FLOOD

1. Keep a battery-powered radio tuned in to a local station, such as the City of Issaquah's 1700 AM. Follow all emergency instructions.
2. If you are caught in your building by rapidly-rising waters, call 911 for help, then move to a higher floor. Take warm, weatherproof clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you.
3. Do not walk or wade in flooded areas.
4. If you evacuate by car:
 - Do not drive where there is water over the road.
 - If your car stalls in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible and walk to safety from the direction you came.
5. Block basement drains to prevent sewage and flood waters from entering your home.
6. Do not touch electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area.

AFTER THE FLOOD

1. Before re-entering your home, check for structural damage that could cause building collapse. Be cautious of potential gas leaks, electrical shorts, and live wires.
2. Document your losses, both in writing and with photographs.
 - Contact your insurance agent for flood loss claims.
 - Follow procedures for safe cleanup of household items, food, water supply and property. For more information, go to www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness.
3. Contact the Building Department at 425-837-3100 regarding any questions on repairs which normally require a building permit such as foundation repairs, drywall and insulation replacement.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency: 911

location. Please be patient as the City must respond to many requests.)

Link to upstream gauge at Hobart:
www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/floodwarning

Public Works Operations: 425-837-3470 (Weekdays 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Flood Phase Information: Recorded phone line (425-837-3028); Web site (www.ci.issaquah.wa.us); radio station (1700 AM); and TV channel (ICTV 21).

King County Health Department:
 206-296-4600 (cleanup and procedures)

Sand and bag Delivery: 425-837-3470 (24 hours a day when Phase II or higher. When calling, be prepared to give your name, address, and delivery

Flood information/maps:
www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/flood

King County Household Hazards:
 206-296-4692

SANDBAGGING GUIDELINES

The City delivers sand and bags upon request during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.) from October through April. This service is also available during Phases II, III and IV of a flood event. Call 425-837-3470. Citizens are encouraged to request and place sandbags prior to flooding.

1. Place sandbags close (3 to 5 feet) to your structures. **DO NOT** place along property lines or along stream banks.
2. Fill bags 2/3 to 3/4 full and interlock when stacking.
3. Plan ahead for bag placement. Do not create a problem for your neighbors.
4. Do not place bags or divert water onto a roadway or reroute a stream.

5. Sandbag placement locations are subject to City approval.
6. Sand and bag deliveries will be made as long as access to your property is safe.
7. Sandbags are provided for the protection of your structures only. Do not attempt to divert waters from your property.
8. Do not dump sand into the creek or on its banks—store for future use.
9. The City does not collect used sandbags or sand on private property.

Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the termination of sand bag service to your property.

FLOOD PHASE SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF ISSAQUAH

THE FLOOD PHASE SYSTEM CONSISTS OF FOUR PHASES IN INCREASING ORDER OF SEVERITY:

	EXTENT OF FLOODING	ACTION BY CITY	ACTION BY RESIDENTS	ISSAQUAH CREEK LEVEL
PHASE I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insignificant Flood Watch Phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Works and Police Departments notified Stand-by monitoring begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always be prepared with household flood strategy Monitor Issaquah's Flood warning system and weather reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upstream gauge reads 6.5 feet and rising Heavy rains expected to continue
PHASE II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor to moderate flooding in flood-prone areas A few street closures due to water on roadway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Works Operations Department begins flood fighting activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate household flood strategy Frequently flooded areas can expect flooding Monitor Issaquah's Flood warning system and weather reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upstream gauge reads 7.5 feet and rising
PHASE III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to major flooding on Issaquah Creek, Tibbetts Creek, and the East Fork of Issaquah Creek Flooding possible in many creekside areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full flood fighting effort in effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuate if necessary Monitor Issaquah's Flood warning system and weather reports Block basement drains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upstream gauge reads 8.5 feet regardless of trend
PHASE IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme flooding similar to January 2009 or greater Extensive flooding throughout Issaquah and Tibbetts Creek Valleys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum flood fighting effort in effect City prepares for possible disaster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuate if necessary If not, make sure that you are ready to withstand the full extent of the flood with ample supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upstream gauge reads 9.0 feet regardless of trend