



Public Works Operations

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ISSAQUAH FLOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM

The purpose of the Issaquah Flood Information System is to provide residents with a way of obtaining information on impending floodwaters so they can take proper defensive action and prepare themselves before serious flooding occurs. Depending on a resident's location and the extent of the flooding, the system can usually provide 3 to 4 hours lead-time.

When activated, the City posts flood phase information on the City's Emergency Information Line (425-837-3028) and TV Channel 21. This information is updated as conditions change. The City's web site also has a link to current flood stages.

The Issaquah Flood Information 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.

The City delivers sand and bags upon request during normal working hours (7:30 am – 4:00 pm) from October through April. This service is also available during phases II, III, and IV of a flood event. See this flyer for flood phase system and sandbag guidelines.

Citizens are encouraged to request and place sandbags prior to flooding.

INDIVIDUAL FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PROVISIONS:

PROCEDURES

Family Rendezvous Location
Evacuation Routes
Emergency Housing
Pet and Livestock Safety
Flood Insurance
Emergency Info
Phone numbers near phone
Sand and Bags

SUPPLIES

Food & Drinking Water
First Aid Kit
Medicines
Blankets, Warm Clothing
Raingear/Waterproof tarp
Portable Radio, Batteries
Candles, Flashlight
Shovels

BEFORE THE FLOOD

1. Know if you are in a flood-prone area. Call the Public Works Engineering at 425-837-3400 or view flood maps on the City's web site: www.ci.issaquah.wa.us (follow Web Link).
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 home. See sandbagging guidelines in this flyer.

DURING THE FLOOD

1. Keep a battery-powered radio tuned in to a local station. 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. When flooding is imminent, and only if time permits, close the main gas valve.
7. Do not touch any 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. The King County Health Department has a brochure on cleanup procedures entitled "Emergency Measures for Flood-Stricken Premises."
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

Public Works Operations: Weekdays
7:30 am – 4:00 pm, 425-837-3470.

Sandbag Delivery: 24 hours a day
when Phase II is entered, 425-837-3470. When phoning, be prepared to

give your name, address, and delivery location. Please be patient as the City must respond to many requests.

Flood Phase Information: Up-to-date information available on Emergency Information Line, 425-837-3028, on TV Channel 21.

Web Link: Follow the Flood Information web link on the City's website for the current flood stage:
www.ci.issaquah.wa.us.

King County Health Department:
Cleanup Procedures, 206-296-4932, or call King County Household Hazards, 206-296-4692.

SANDBAGGING GUIDELINES

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the termination of sand bag service to your property.</i></p> |
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THANK YOU

THE 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 & Police Department notified Stand-by monitoring begins City Emergency Information line activated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always be prepared with household flood strategy Monitor City Emergency Information line 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 City Emergency Information line 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 City Emergency Information Line 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 February 1996 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