Fall/Winter
2016

Stormwater Solutions

Flood Preparedness information

Before a Flood ("Flood Watch") - Preparation. *When a flood watch is issued take the following steps to ensure you will be ready to evacuate should the condition escalate.*

- Check NOAA's website (www.weather.gov), www.ready.gov and the City's website (www.cityofferndale.org) to watch for weather updates and information.
- Build or restock emergency supplies, including: non-perishable food, water, first aid kit, flashlights, blankets, dry clothing, large trash bags, battery operated radio and extra batteries. Don't forget special needs items such as medications, and special dietary foods.
- Safely stockpile emergency building materials including: plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber nails, hammer and saw, pry bar, shovels, and sandbags.
- Fill your bathtub and sink(s) with water to be used for drinking.
- Remove trash or other debris from your yard that may float.
- Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Teach family members how to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Fill the gas tank in your vehicle and map out a route to higher ground. Try to avoid routes that cross-streams.
- Develop your out-of-area phone contact. After a disaster it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure all family members know the phone number of your out-of-area contact person.
- Ask your insurance agent about the National Flood Program. Remember, homeowner's policies do not cover flood damage.

Turn Around, Don't Drown

Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and **2 feet** of water can sweep your vehicle away.

During a Flood ("Flood Warning") - Take action. *The most important consideration during a flood is the safety of you and your family.*

- Be prepared to evacuate before waters reach your property if directed.
- Secure your home before leaving. Turn off electricity, gas and water if possible.
- Take personal items with you (medication, clothing, money, identification)
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Barricades are there for your protection; do NOT drive around them.
- During a declared Emergency, a sandbag fill station will be behind Ferndale City Hall, located at 2095 Main Street. The fill station can be accessed at the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Alder Street. Those wishing to obtain sandbags may do so, but must come prepared to fill and transport their own bags. Sand and sandbags will be provided by the City of Ferndale, so long as they are available. Please note: residents should supply their own shovels.

The 2016/2017 is forecasted to be a neutral or weak La Nina season. La Nina is characterized by unusually cold temperatures in the Pacific Ocean.

After the Flood—*Re-entering Your Home*

- Before entering, check for structural damage that could cause collapse. Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank and let the house air for several minutes.
- Do not strike a match when entering your home. There may have been a gas leak.
- Be careful about turning the power on again. Watch for electrical shorts or live wires. Do not use water damaged appliances.
- Document your flood losses and contact your insurance agent for flood loss claims.
- If your home has received extensive structural damage, this may be the time to elevate or flood proof the structure.

If you would like to volunteer to fill sand bags during a flood event, visit www.cityofferndale.org or call 360-384-4006 for information. The City will post calls for volunteers, ages 16 and older.

Did you know?

⇒ With nearly 50 miles of roadway to cover and 25 miles of stormwater pipe to maintain (in addition to ditches!), the City Public Works Crew is doing their best to ensure that our stormwater system is operating properly. Unfortunately, this time of year the wind is sometimes bringing down leaves faster than we can keep cleared from the storm grates, so please help us by making certain that the drains near your house are leaf free. Just a few little leaves can cause big problems! Grab a rake, shovel, broom or your hands to scoop extra leaves and debris off the top of the grate. Keeping drains free of debris reduces the chance of flooding in your neighborhood.

⇒ The City does not provide sand and sandbags to the public for use on private property unless a State of Emergency has officially been declared by the Mayor, County or the State. You can purchase sand and sandbags for personal use at the local hardware or home improvement store.

⇒ Copies of flood protection information handbooks are available for viewing at the Ferndale Public Library or online at www.fema.gov/library.

This 2015/2016 winter is forecasted to be a strong El Niño season. El Niño is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Pacific Ocean.