

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A FLOOD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BROCHURE BECAUSE YOUR PROPERTY IS IN OR NEAR A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA.

➤ **History of Flooding in the City of Livermore.**

The City of Livermore, a part of the Alameda Creek drainage basin, is drained by Arroyo de la Laguna, a major tributary of Alameda Creek southwest of Livermore. Tributaries to Arroyo de la Laguna that drain the City of Livermore and surrounding regions include Arroyo Mocho, Arroyo Las Positas, Arroyo Seco, and Altamont Creek. No major bodies of water exist in the City, although several small lakes lie west of it. In the City of Livermore, flood-producing rainfall occurs during the winter months in the Livermore Valley. Storm runoff is concentrated rapidly by the network of tributaries that discharge through the hills into the major streams. The tributaries have carved well-defined courses through the hills; but, upon reaching the flat Livermore Valley, the channels become shallow and inadequate for lower return-frequency flows. Constricting structures combine with the development of some floodplain areas and climate change to make the City of Livermore susceptible to damage. In February 2017, winter storms caused \$11 million in damage to public infrastructure and \$8 million in damage to private property. Again in 2023, winter storms caused an additional \$15 million in damage to public infrastructure. The largest flood recorded at the City of Livermore occurred in January 1952, doing damage to railroads, bridges, roads, utilities, and properties. The \$100,000 of damage estimated in 1952 would be much more today.

➤ ***What should you do before a flood?***

➤ **Determine if your property is located in an area subject to flooding.** The following areas have a known potential for flooding:

West Jack London Blvd / El Charro Rd	Collier Canyon Rd
Club House Drive	Arroyo del Valle
Arroyo Mocho	Arroyo Las Positas
Airway Bl	Arroyo Seco
Las Positas Golf Course	Patterson Pass Rd
Stanley Blvd/Murrieta Bl	Altamont Creek Park
Springtown Golf Course	Greenville Rd
Robertson Park Rd	

This is not a complete list of areas that are within flood zones, but rather a list of areas with documented flooding problems. A property located within a flood zone may not necessarily experience flooding problems. If your neighborhood is not listed, your property may still be within a flood zone, as designated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps. Upon request, the Engineering Division at (925) 960-4500, will make free flood zone determinations for properties within the City. FEMA maps are also available in Livermore Public Libraries. If located in an “AE” Zone, your property is within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), which is an area that has been determined to have the potential for flooding caused by a 100-year storm. The Community Development Department also maintains elevation certificates for many properties within the city which are also available for review.

➤ **Purchase flood insurance on your property.**

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner’s insurance policy. A separate flood insurance policy is required to cover damages incurred by flooding. Coverage is available for the building itself as well as for the contents of the building. The City of Livermore participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that makes available federally backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not they are located within the floodplain. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. More than 25 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside the 100-year floodplain, also known as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Contact your insurance agency for more information. Flood insurance information is also available in the Permit Center in the City Hall or contact at (925) 960 4440.

➤ **Maintain drainage channels and pipes free of obstruction and debris.** The City of Livermore performs cleaning and maintenance activities on the

drainage channels and pipes in City easements & rights-of-way in accordance with an established schedule and other standard operating procedures. Residents are encouraged to assist in maintaining the drainage in their areas by removing or reporting obstructions (such as shopping carts, leaves, debris, trash, etc.). Keeping drainage channels free of obstructions reduces flooding in the event of heavy rains. By way of City ordinance, it is illegal to dump trash, leaves, landscape debris, paint, grease, or any other material into any portion of the City’s drainage system. Such dumping can have devastating impacts on water quality in addition to causing flooding. To report obstructions or illegal dumping, or for questions regarding drainage system maintenance, please contact Public Works (925) 960- 8000 or Water Resource Division at (925) 960-8100.

➤ **Protect your property from the hazards of flooding.**

Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the floor level of your property is lower than the “Base Flood Elevation” (elevation of the 100-year flood, based on the FEMA maps), consider elevating your structure, if possible. Brochures discussing flood proofing and other mitigation measures are available in Livermore Public Libraries. If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages. Prior to winter storms sandbags and sand are often available at the Livermore Maintenance Service Center, Fire Station 6 and 8 and Zone 7 offices. Residents need to bring their own shovel. Check the City website: <https://www.livermoreca.gov> for more information. We also have site specific information for some parcels within Livermore. For more information, please contact the Livermore Floodplain Manager at (925) 960-4500.

➤ **Meet improvement requirements.** The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that if the cost of reconstruction, additions, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building’s market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. For example, a residence damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building’s value before it was damaged must be elevated above the base flood

elevation. Please contact the Livermore Floodplain Manager at (925) 960-4500 for more information.

➤ **Meet permitting requirements.** All development within the city requires a permit. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Permit Center at (925) 960-4440 before you build on, alter, fill, or re-grade on any portion of your property and/or within any easement or right-of-way. Also, contact either of the number above to report any suspected permitting violations.

➤ **Keep an emergency supply.** Non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlights, first aid kit, a manual can opener, and a battery-operated radio should be kept available.

➤ **Sign up for Emergency Alerts.**

Sign-up for Alameda County Alert notifications at:

<https://www.acgov.org/emergencysite/documents/ACAlertSignUp.pdf>

What should you do during a flood?

➤ If your property is in imminent danger of flooding, please contact PG&E at (800) 743-5002 or 1-(800)-PGE-5000 to request that your power and natural gas be shut off, or for guidance on how to do it yourself. This number may also be contacted regarding any other electrical or natural gas emergencies.

Tune-in to local commercial radio or television stations (KFOG - 104.5 AM, KSFO - 560 AM, KCBS - 740 AM), or NOAA Weather Radio (frequencies 162.550 or 162.450) for Watch and Warning Bulletins and any corresponding emergency instructions. The Alameda County Emergency Preparedness Division will order or advise evacuations if conditions warrant this action. If evacuations are called for, it is imperative that you follow instructions in the time frame noted. Questions regarding emergency procedures may be addressed to the City of Livermore - Pleasanton Fire Department at (925) 454-2361.

➤ If dangerous flooding conditions are imminent, avoid driving a vehicle if possible. Do not attempt to drive or wade through deep pockets of water or running washes. Unstable banks should be avoided.

➤ Develop an evacuation plan for your family.

➤ Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.

What should you do after a flood?

- Listen to the radio for emergency instructions.
- Avoid driving if possible.
- Follow established procedures for property damage repairs:

Select a contractor who is licensed in his/her trade. The City of Livermore requires contractors to be licensed in the State of California and to have a City of Livermore Business Licenses. Only licensed electricians may perform electrical work, only licensed plumbers may perform plumbing work, only licensed gas contractors may work on a gas system, only licensed mechanical contractors may perform heating, ventilation and air conditioning work, and only licensed building contractors may perform building related work. Verify that contractors are licensed before signing or agreeing to any repair contracts. It is also recommended that you verify certification of liability and workman's compensation insurance. Complaints against licensed contractors may be referred to the appropriate licensing agency.

Require your contractors to obtain the proper permits for work being performed. Permits are required for any permanent improvement (including painting, roofing, siding, additions, alterations, etc.) to a structure and for site work such as grading, filling, etc. Permits are required even if a homeowner is doing the work himself.

Questions about permits or contractor licensing may be addressed to the City of Livermore Building Division at (925) 960-4410.

Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding: Floodplains are a natural component of the Alameda County environment. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of floodplains helps reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which 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 suitable for farming. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to

downstream properties and degradation of water quality.

For more information about flood safety or the NFIP, please note the following:

<https://www.livermoreca.gov/>
<https://www.fema.gov/>
<https://www.fema.gov/about/contact>
<https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps>
<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>
www.DisasterAssistance.gov or 800-621-FEMA
Flood Smart: 1-866-277-0055
National Flood Insurance Program: 1-800-638-6620
Zone 7 Water Agency: (925) 454-5000

Report Flooding

[\(925\) 960-8100](tel:(925)960-8100), Monday to Friday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm.

[\(925\) 960-8160](tel:(925)960-8160)

Weekends, Holidays, & After Hours

Report Downed Trees

[\(925\) 960-8020](tel:(925)960-8020), Monday to Thursday, 7:00 am-3:30pm
Friday, 6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

[\(925\) 371-4987](tel:(925)371-4987), Police Dispatch

Weekends, Holidays, & After Hours

Report Downed Power Lines & Power Outages

[1-800-743-5002](tel:1-800-743-5002) ,PG&E

Links to Flood Preparedness Information:

<https://www.floodsmart.gov/first-prepare-flooding>

<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/advocate>

<https://www.ready.gov/publications>

<https://www.livermoreca.gov/departments/comm-unity-development/engineering/creeks-and-floods>

Link to Livermore GIS map with Flood zones:

<https://www.livermoreca.gov/departments/comm-unity-development/gis-maps>



FLOOD SAFETY



This information is provided by the City of Livermore and is applicable to properties within the limits of the City. If you reside in a jurisdiction other than the City of Livermore, contact your regulatory authority for information.

If you believe you received this notice in error, or if you no longer own this property, please contact the City of Livermore Engineering Division at (925) 960-4500, via U.S.mail, or engineering@cityoflivermore.net.

City of Livermore Engineering Division
1052 South Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550