

Flooding

How to Reduce Flood Damage

Help reduce flood risk by doing your part to keep our waterways clear of debris. Keeping waterways free of obstructions reduces flooding in the event of heavy rains. By way of City ordinance, it is illegal to dump trash or any other material into any portion of the City's drainage system. To report debris or illegal dumping, or for questions regarding drainage system maintenance contact Public Works at (925) 960-8100

Protect your property from the hazards of flooding

- Learn if your home or business is in the floodplain [here](#). To look at a more detailed map visit the City [GIS Map Viewer](#) and select the "Flood" layer
- If you are at risk of flooding a number of actions can reduce the risk. Re-grading your property to provide for better storage of stormwater runoff, installing an earthen berm along the perimeter, and elevating the existing structure are good flood damage protection practices. Brochures discussing floodproofing and other mitigation measures are available here ([link to CRS Page](#)) and in Livermore Public Libraries
- Staff can offer suggestions and provide site-specific information for some parcels. For more information, contact the Floodplain Manager at (925) 960-4500.
- Follow established procedures for building flood protection measures or repairing flood damage.
 - Select a contractor who is licensed in his trade. The City of Livermore requires contractors to be licensed in the State of California and to have a City of Livermore Business Licenses. For questions about contractor licensing, contact the City Building Division at (925) 960-4410.
 - Obtain the proper permits for any work being done. All development within the city requires a permit. Contact the Permit Center at (925) 960-4440 before beginning any work. Also, contact them to report any suspected permitting violations.

Purchase flood insurance

- Standard homeowners' insurance does not cover flooding. The City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which allows you to purchase federally backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not you are located within the floodplain. The City works diligently to maintain a high standard of flood prevention, resulting in an insurance discount for residents of up to 20%.
- Call your insurance agent today to purchase flood insurance. If you don't have an agent, go to [FloodSmart.gov](#). Flood insurance information is also available at the Permit Center in the City Hall or contact at (925) 960-4440.

Develop a family emergency plan

- Build an emergency supply kit. Food, bottled water, first aid supplies, medicines and a battery-operated radio should be ready to go when you are. Visit [Ready.gov](#) for a complete disaster supply checklist.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route. Ask someone out of state to be your "family contact" in an emergency, and make sure everyone knows the contact's address and phone number.
- Make a pet plan. Many shelters do not allow pets. Make plans now on what to do with your pets if you are required to evacuate your residence.

If a flood is imminent

- Move furniture, valuables and important documents to a safe place. Store copies of irreplaceable documents (such as birth certificates, passports, etc.) in a safe, dry place. Keep originals in a safe deposit box.
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts
- Property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. The Livermore Public Work Department or the Livermore - Pleasanton Fire Department may be available to assist with sandbagging efforts.

Flooding (continued)

How to Stay Safe During a Flood

- If your property is in imminent danger of flooding, please contact PG&E at (800) 743-5002 to request that your power and natural gas be shut off, or for guidance on how to do it yourself
- Tune-in to local commercial radio or television stations using a battery operated radio, (KCBS – 740 AM), or NOAA Weather Radio (frequencies 162.425 or 162.400) for Watch and Warning Bulletins and any corresponding emergency instructions
- The [Alameda County Emergency Preparedness Division](#) will order or advise evacuation 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 you have a life-threatening emergency call 9-1-1.
- To report flooding call (925) 960-8100.
- Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, followed by electrocution. Protect yourself and stay safe during a flood:
 - If dangerous flooding conditions are imminent, avoid driving a vehicle if possible. Do not attempt to drive through deep pockets of water or running washes. Do not drive around road barriers--water only two feet deep can carry your car away.
 - In standing water, make sure the ground in front of you has not eroded away. Go to higher ground and avoid areas subject to flooding.
 - Do not attempt to walk across flowing water.
 - Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible. If water rises in your home before you evacuate, go to the top floor, attic, or roof.
 - Electrical currents can travel through water--stay away from power lines and wires. Report downed power lines to Pacific Gas and Electric, or police service provider.
 - Some appliances keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet.
 - If you come in contact with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.

Flooding (continued)

What to do After a Flood

- If your home has suffered damage, report your loss immediately to your insurance agent or carrier. Be sure to ask them about advance payments.
- Check for structural damage before re-entering your building to avoid being trapped in a building collapse.
- Enter your home cautiously. The ground and floors may be slippery and covered in debris, including broken bottles and nails.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.
- Take photos of any flood water in your home
- Save any damaged personal property and make a list of damaged or lost items (include their purchase date and value with receipts). Some damaged items may require disposal, so keep photographs of these items.
- Be aware of small animals that have been flooded out of their homes--they may try to seek shelter in yours.
- Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Boil water for drinking and food preparation until authorities tell you that your water supply is safe.
- Prevent mold by removing wet contents immediately.
- Wear gloves and boots to clean and disinfect. Wet items should be cleaned with pine oil cleaner and bleached, completely dried, and monitored for several days for any fungal growth and odors.

For more information on how to protect yourself, your family, and your property, [Click here](#) to visit FEMA Floodsmart.