Flood information

The following information is provided to assist residents who may have been impacted by the recent storms that took place during New Year's Eve weekend and, generally, any time there is a potential emergency situation in Vallejo. While this information is storm specific, many of the principles included in this document can be applied to other emergencies.

At the end of this document there are links to other web sites such as FEMA and state organizations.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Mazzaferro at 649-5462.

After the Storm

Nine Steps to Recovery

1. Take Care of Yourself First

Care for Yourself Care for Your Children Stay Healthy

2. Give Your Home First Aid

Make sure it is safe to go back
Check your home before you go in
Go inside carefully
Rescue the most valuable items
Protect your home from further damage
Drain your basement carefully
Hose the house and its contents

3. Get Organized

Call your insurance agent Start listing the damage Check for structural damage Plan your recovery

4. Dry Out Your Home

Lower the humidity
Dry the ceilings and walls
Dry the floor

5. Restore the Utilities

If you need help, call a professional

6. Clean Up

Every flooded part of your house should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected Cleaning supplies checklist Cleaning tips

7. Check on Financial Assistance

Depends on what you can afford Insurance

Government disaster programs Volunteer organizations Businesses

8. Rebuild and Floodproof

Don't just build it back; build it back better Make sure you hire a good, reliable, well established contractor

9. Prepare for the Next Flood

Buy flood insurance Develop a flood response plan Develop a checklist of steps to take before flood waters reach your home Help your community implement a flood protection program

Safety Tips

Do not walk through flowing water.

Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Most of these drownings occur during flash floods. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole or stick to make sure that the ground is still there before you go through an area where the water is not flowing.

Do not drive through a flooded area.

More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road bafflers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

Electrocution is also a major killer in floods. Electrical curreny can travel through water. Report downed power lines to PG&E or the City Streets Department, 257-9524.

Turn off your electricity when you return home.

Some appliances, such as television sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.

Watch for animals, especially snakes.

Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn items over and scare away small animals.

Look before you step.

After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks.

Use a flashlight to inspect for damages. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flame unless you are sure that the gas has been turned off and the area has been aired out.

Carbon monoxide exhaust kills.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Fumes from charcoal are especially deadly--cook with charcoal only outdoors.

Clean everything that got wet.

Floodwaters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories and storage buildings. Spoiled food and flooded cosmetics and medicines are health hazards. When in doubt throw them out.

Take good care of yourself

Recovering from a flood is a big job. It is tough on both the body and the spirit. And the effect a disaster has on you and your family may last a long time. Rest often and take good care of yourself and your family; **DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOUR SELF**. Rely on utility crews.

Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.

Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking.

Have wells pumped out and the water tested before drinking. If you have City water, there is no need to treat your water. If you are on a well and your well was covered with water during the flood, contact the Napa County Department of Environmental Health at 253-4471.

Use flashlights, **DO NOT** use lanterns, matches or candles to examine buildings; flammable material may be inside.

Don't remove standing water in a basement too fast. If the pressure is relieved too quickly it may put undue stress on the walls.

Don't dry buildings with mechanical dehumidifiers, which may draw out moisture too quickly and cause additional damage. Allow structures to dry naturally.

Don't scrub or brush mud and other deposits from materials. This may cause further damage.

Don't let water-damaged papers remain in wet boxes -- remove them and air dry or freeze dry.

Don't open any books or albums that were completely submerged. (Wet paper is very weak and will tear.)

Don't keep objects in dark, hot, stagnant air with high humidity -- these conditions encourage mold.

Don't try to separate bundles of saturated paper.

Clean-Up:

Interior:

- Document the damage for insurance purposes by taking notes or photographs.
- Do, BEFORE removing items from water, prepare a clean, dry, well-ventilated temporary area for sorting and storing your objects. Wet objects should be moved only once because they are fragile, so setting aside such an area is vital.
- · Wear rubber gloves, and, if possible, a face mask, when handling items.
- · Provide support for damaged objects when moving them, such as a cart, or a flat, sturdy surface.

- · Call an expert if in doubt about how to salvage any materials.
- · Carefully dispose of standing water in interior areas.
- Food suspected of being contaminated should be destroyed to prevent accidental ingestion of bacteria. Disinfect suspect water retrieved from structures tap or stored before consuming.
- Contaminated household items, especially cooking and eating utensils, should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before use. Utensils should be soaked for 30 seconds in a clear rinse solution containing 100 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine (approximately 1 once of household bleach per 3 gallons of water).
- Thoroughly clean and sanitize contaminated food-contact surfaces with generous quantifies of disinfecting solution. A sanitizing rinse solution which contains 100 parts per million available chlorine can be prepared by mixing approximately 2 teaspoons of household bleach per gallon of water. Milder disinfectants such as pine disinfectant or non-chlorine bleach can be used on non food-contact surfaces such as cabinets, furniture, etc., to avoid damage to these materials. Properly dispose of materials, furniture, etc, which are too heavily soiled or contaminated.
- Soiled or contaminated carpets and pads should be removed to be cleaned more thoroughly. Carpeting may be salvaged if cleaned with detergent and disinfectant; padding is absorbent and cannot be salvaged. Construction materials may also be contaminated or deteriorated and need to be removed. Dispose of all discarded materials properly.

Exterior:

• Disinfect contaminated soil or ground surfaces by broadcasting calcium oxide, or "lime". Lime is a caustic disinfecting powder used primarily for exterior areas, available at hardware or nursery supply stores. Mix lime into contaminated soil layers with shovels or other tools.

Flood Planning For Business

Flood Preparation

- A. Get to know your neighbors and other tenants.
 - · Have home and emergency contact lists.
 - Discuss prior flood sand the problems encountered.
- B. Prepare a flood box or storage of the following:
 - Flashlight with extra batteries / First Aid kit
 - · Battery operated radio with extra
 - · Bleach and sponges
 - · Tool kit, hammer, nails, pliers,
 - · Gloves crescent wrench, utility knife and
 - · Plastic sheeting and tape screwdriver
 - · Empty sand bags / Camera with film
 - · Rubber boots / Shoes and socks
 - · Rain jackets and pants

- · Warm clothing and blanket
- · Drinking water
- · Copy of the flood plan
- · Brooms, shovels, mops and squeegees

C. Develop a flood plan and review it on an annual basis.

- · You will need a four phase plan: preparation stage, flood alert stage, flooding stage, after flooding stage.
- Be able to communicate with your employees by telephone and have a means of communication when the telephone is not working. Have an offsite high ground method of communicating and a check-in location.
- · Have an automobile parking plan away from your business.
- · Have people readily available to sandbag. Know where the city will have sandbags, how to use them, and how you are going to get them to your building. Have a plan of how you are going to use sandbags, plastic sheeting and flood boards.
- Move your inventory to higher levels; move offsite or into trucks. Remember where or find out how high previous floods came in the building.
- If you use computers have current backup of your important programs and data stored offsite. Protect the bottom two drawers of filing cabinets and desks by moving them to a higher location in the office.
- · Have an evacuation plan for the building.
- Plan how your important records will be stored offsite.
- · Review your flood insurance program.
- · Use a camera to document the flood preparation and damages occurring to your business.
- Unplug electrical equipment and raise it off the floor.
- · All elevators should be raised to the second floor and not used (turn them off)
- · Natural gas appliances should be turned off
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Empty your safe and remove cash from the site.
- Records to remove are: accounts receivable, General Ledger, tax returns, checks, customer lists and orders, important contracts and other legal documents.
- · Remove all toxic or hazardous chemicals.
- Have plywood to protect windows and doors 3 to 4 feet.
- · Remove your toilets and close off sewers and drains in the floor.

Flooding is Imminent or Hours Away (Flood Alert Stage)

- A. Do not panic.
- B. Review and start your flood plan.
- C. Meet with your employees.
- D. Notify your key customers and suppliers.
- E. Turn off your electrical power and natural gas. Notify your alarm company.
- F. Move your critical equipment and inventory to a higher place. Outside equipment may float away; they should be secured or moved.
- G. Secure and work your flood plan.
- H. Work with your neighbors; if they flood you may flood also.
- I. Take photographs of your preparations for insurance and history for training.
- J. Lock all doors, gates and windows to minimize looting

Flooding is Occurring (Flooding Stage)

- A. Do not walk in the water. Manholes could be open, the current may knock you down, or there could be downed electrical wires.
- B. Move your self, employees and vehicles to higher ground.
- C. Set up a telephone center out of the flood area for your employees and customers to get information.
- D. Listen to the radio.

After flooding

- A. Wait for the flood water to drain off, the mud is very slippery, and look for any structural problems.
- B. Develop a recovery plan for your business after you assess the damage.
- C. The flood water always has sewage mixed in so use gloves and wash your hands.
- D. Remove the water and mud left behind as soon as possible.
- E. Disinfect the floors and walls and equipment.
- F. Ventilate the area and dry everything out as soon as possible.
- G. Electrical and gas appliances should be inspected before operation if they were m the flood waters.
- H. Contact your insurance agent and take a lot of pictures of the damage.
- I. Carpeting with pads has to be removed in order to clean and dry or it must be replaced. Mold will start within days. Carpeting with no pad can be dried in place and cleaned. All carpeting has to be disinfected.
- J. Sandbags and other flood material needs to be disposed of either though the city or hauled to the Napa disposal site. Sand and other flood materials may be contaminated with toxins or sewage.
- K. Check with FEMA for financial assistance.

Continue to stay tuned to local radio or television stations for information and instructions from local authorities.

LINKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Checking for Hazards Upon Returning Home

Steps to Take After a Flood

<u>Guide to Repairing Your Flooded Home</u> by American Red Cross and FEMA (includes a downloadable PDF file, available in English and Spanish)

American Red Cross-Solano Chapter

Solano County Office of Emergency Services Flood Awareness info

National Flood Insurance Program

<u>FEMA</u>

American Red Cross - http://www.redcross.org/

What Should I do After the Flood? -

http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/whatshouldidoafter.shtm

Checking for Hazards After the Flood - http://www.fema.gov/hazards/chkhazards.shtm

National Flood Insurance Program - http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/index.jsp

FEMA Flood Insurance - http://www.fema.gov/nfip/

California State OES - http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/1?OpenForm

MISSION SOLANO PROVIDING FLOOD RELIEF TO SOLANO COUNTY

Mission Solano is offering assistance to those who have been affected by the recent storms and flooding. Located at 740 Travis Blvd. in Fairfield, they are offering food, clothing, and house hold goods to anyone in need of them because of the flooding and recent storms. Those in need should call Raymond Courtemanche at (707) 310-4152; or call (707) 384-2410 24 hours a day for assistance.