Living in a FLAIN SPLAIN



Nick Fish, Commissioner • Dean Marriott, Director

Fall and winter storms can cause flooding in Portland.

Keep these rainy season tips in mind, especially if you live or work in a floodplain.

Be Safe

- Assemble a disaster supplies kit. To learn how, go to www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/53983
- Don't try to walk or drive through flowing flood waters. If you can't avoid walking through flood waters, use a pole or stick to help get you safely through flowing water.
- Electricity travels through water. Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your electric utility:

PGE – 1-800-542-8818 Pacific Power – 1-877-508-5088

Protect Your Property

- Make a record of your personal property.
 Use photos or videos, or ask your insurance company for inventory forms.
- If you know a flood is coming, shut off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs.

STAY INFORMED

- Several Portland radio and television stations provide timely weather and flood information including KXL 750 AM, KEX 1190 AM, KINK FM 102; KOIN Channel 6, KATU Channel 2, KGW Channel 8 and KPTV Channel 12.
- Get river level information at www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc.
- Get Portland weather conditions at www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr or call the Portland National Weather Service office at 503-261-9246.
- Subscribe to the City of Portland's public emergency notifications system at www.publicalerts.org and receive real-time alerts via web, text message, cell phone or email. Follow PublicAlerts on Twitter
 @PublicAlerts.

Check Your Insurance

Basic homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. But because Portland participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (*FloodSmart.gov*),



Portland residents can purchase federally-backed flood insurance at an average cost of about \$600 a year.

Portland residents receive a 10% to 25% flood insurance discount because of the city's favorable rating in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS). CRS awards points to local jurisdictions for reducing flood risk through actions like public education, stormwater management, public ownership of land in the floodplain, and obtaining detailed information about structures within the 100-year floodplain. Get more CRS information at www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/community-rating-system.

Over the course of a 30-year mortgage, there's a 26% chance that flooding will damage a property in the 100-year flood plain. If you have a federally-backed mortgage and are in the 100-year floodplain, you're probably required to carry flood insurance.

To find out if your property is in a floodplain, call 503-823-6892, or go to the city's Development Services Center at 1900 SW 4th Avenue. Floodplain maps are also available at *PortlandMaps.com*. Enter your address, click on "Maps" then choose "Hazard" to find maps for your property.

Construction in Floodplains

New buildings in the floodplain must be protected from flood damage. You need a permit to build on, alter, regrade or fill on your property. The permit ensures that the work doesn't cause problems on other properties and that it meets government requirements.

Call 503-823-6892 before you build, or if you see building or filling without a city permit sign posted.

Working for Clean Rivers

An average of 37 inches of rain falls in the City of Portland annually. Soil and plants absorb rain in a natural environment. But when streets and buildings cover the ground, rain washes over hard surfaces. Stormwater runoff that isn't properly managed carries dirt, oil and other pollutants to rivers and streams, and causes erosion and flooding.

Portland uses green streets, ecoroofs, trees and other green infrastructure to manage stormwater, protect water quality and improve watershed health. Green infrastructure also protects the city's aging sewer

system and makes it operate more efficiently by keeping stormwater out of sewers. To learn more about green infrastructure in Portland, visit the City Green Blog at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/citygreen.

Manage Stormwater on Your Property

If you manage stormwater on your property, you may be eligible for a discount on your stormwater bill. Go to www.CleanRiverRewards.com or call 503-823-1371 to learn more.

