

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 Valley County** Valley County contains several large rivers and smaller tributaries that are susceptible to annual flooding events which pose threats to life and safety and can cause significant property damage. Snow melt and rain-on-snow events contribute substantially to flooding.

*What should you do
before a flood?*

❖ **Determine if your property is located in an area subject to flooding.** Contact the Valley County Planning & Zoning to learn more about where your property is located in relation to the mapped Special Flood Hazard Area.

Upon request, the P&Z will make free flood zone determinations for properties within the

unincorporated portions of Valley County. FEMA maps are also available online. If located in an “A” 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 P&Z office also maintains elevation certificates for properties which are available for review by the public.

❖ **Purchase flood insurance on your property.** Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner’s 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. Valley County 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 a floodplain. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. More than 25 % of NFIP claims are for properties located outside the 100-year floodplain. Contact your insurance agency for more info.

❖ **Maintain drainage channels and pipes free of obstruction and debris.** Keeping ditches and streams free of obstructions reduces flooding. Trash and vegetation dumped into a channel degrades water quality and every piece of trash contributes to flooding.

❖ **Protect your property from the hazards of flooding.** Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. Brochures discussing flood proofing and other mitigation measures are available at the Valley County P&Z office, local libraries, and online.

❖ **Meet permitting requirements.** All development within Valley County requires a permit. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Building Department at 208-382-7114, P&Z Office at 208-382-7115, and the Road Department 208-382-7195 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, please contact the phone numbers above to report any suspected violations.

❖ **Keep an emergency supply.** Non-perishable food, water, blankets, a first-aid kit, batteries, flashlights, a manual can opener, and a battery-operated radio should be kept available. Visit www.ready.gov for a disaster supply checklist.

❖ **Have a plan.** Before the floodwaters hit, develop an evacuation plan among all members of a household that includes a meeting place outside of the house, as well as an escape route from home, work, and school.

*What should you do
during a flood?*

❖ **If an evacuation is ordered, do so immediately.** When a mandatory evacuation exists, do not hesitate to evacuate your home. The safety of you and your family is more important than “waiting it out” or defending your home and possessions.

❖ **Avoid areas already flooded, especially when water is flowing.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; just six inches of water can knock you off your feet. If you

walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground hasn't been washed away.

❖ **Do not drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

❖ **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel thru water. Report downed power lines to Idaho Power (1-800-488-6151) or call 911.

❖ **Shut off gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs.**

What should you do after a flood?

❖ **Check for damage.** Check for structural damage before re-entering a flooded building. If you suspect damage to water, gas, electric, or sewer lines, contact authorities.

❖ **Remove wet contents immediately.** Wet carpeting, furniture, bedding, and any other items holding moisture can develop

mold within 24 to 48 hours. If any mold develops, throw the item away.

❖ **Thoroughly dry out the building's interior.** Portable dehumidifiers are useful and rental costs may be covered under your flood policy. Air conditioners or fans can also be used to start the drying-out process

❖ Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by floodwaters or mudflows. Throw away food that came into contact with floodwaters and boil water until authorities declare the water supply safe to drink.

❖ Plan before you repair. Contact the Valley County Building Inspector and P&Z Office about local building requirements before repairing your structure. Be sure to obtain the proper permits for work being performed. Permits are required for improvements and repairs including roofing, siding, additions to a structure, and for site work such as grading, etc.

❖ Questions about permits or contractor licensing may be addressed to the Valley County

Building Department at 208-382-7114.

❖ Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding. Floodplains are a natural component of the Valley 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 stream bank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed and improved groundwater recharge. Locally, the Payette River and Salmon River drainages serve natural and beneficial functions in our floodplain.

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

www.co.valley.id.us/planning-zoning
www.fema.gov/hazards/floods

1-888-FLOOD29

This information is provided by Valley County Planning & Zoning and is applicable to properties within the unincorporated portions of Valley County. If you reside in a jurisdiction other than Valley County, 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 Valley County Planning & Zoning at 208-382-7115.