

Are You Prepared For A Flood In Your Neighborhood?

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BROCHURE BECAUSE YOUR PROPERTY IS IN OR NEAR A FLOOD ZONE.

History of Flooding in the City of Salinas

The City of Salinas is located in the Pacific Coastal region and is subject to flooding from stormwater runoff from the Gabilan Mountains and overflows of the Salinas River and Reclamation Ditch. Most stormwater discharges from Salinas ultimately flow to the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. Salinas may be subject to flooding from heavy rains and high tides, which may restrict flow from entering the Monterey Bay.

Know the Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

Floodplains are a natural component of the City of Salinas 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. Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitat, and suitable for farming. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to stream bank erosion, loss of property value, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties and degradation of water quality.

How to prepare for a flood?

Know your Flood hazard

The following areas have a known potential for flooding:

- Carr Lake
- Gabilan Creek
- Market Street
- Natividad Creek
- Salinas River
- Cesar Chavez Park
- Kern Street
- Merced Street
- Reclamation Ditch
- Williams Road

This is not a complete list of areas that are within flood zones, but rather a list of areas with documented flooding problems. If your property is located in an "A", "AE" or "AH" Flood Zone, your property is in a 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 event. It is critical to note that properties located outside the SFHA are not

guaranteed to be safe from flooding. Upon request, the Salinas Permit Center will assist with flood zone determinations for properties within the City. FEMA maps are also available at the Salinas public libraries. The Salinas Permit Center (Development Engineering Division) maintains elevation certificates for some properties within the city which are also available for review.

Insure 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 Salinas participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes federally backed flood insurance available for all structures, whether or not they are located within a SFHA. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. More than 25 % of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside an SFHA. Contact your insurance agency for more information.

Build responsibly

All development within the city requires a permit. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Salinas Permit Center before you build on, alter, fill, or re-grade any portion of your property and/or within any easement or right-of-way. You may also report any suspected permitting violations. The National Flood Insurance Program 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 2 feet above the base flood elevation. Please contact the Permit Center's Development Engineering Division for more information.

Protect your home

Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the floor level of your property is lower than the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), 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 at the Permit Center, the Salinas public libraries and online at the links listed below. If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. The City of Salinas Fire Department and Department of Public Works may be available to assist with sandbagging efforts. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages.

We can help

The City of Salinas may provide one-on-one advice to a property owner regarding flooding and drainage issues on private property. For more information, please contact Development Engineering staff at (831)758-7251.

The City of Salinas 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. In accordance with City Ordinance, it is illegal to dump trash, landscape debris, paint, grease, or any other material into any portion of the City's storm drainage system. Such dumping can have devastating impacts on water quality in addition to causing flooding. Residents are encouraged to assist in maintaining the drainage in their areas by removing or reporting obstructions (such as leaves, debris, trash, etc.). Keeping drainage channels free of obstructions reduces flooding in the event of heavy rains. To report obstructions or illegal dumping, or for questions regarding drainage system maintenance, please contact Public Works Maintenance Services Division at (831)758-7233.

For more information about flood safety:

- Permit Center Development Engineering (831)758-7251
 - Department of Public Works Maintenance Division (831)758-7233
 - Fire Department (831)758-7261
 - <http://www.ci.salinas.ca.us/residents/flooddamageprevention.cfm>
 - <http://www.FloodSmart.gov> 1(800)427-2419
 - <http://www.Ready.gov>
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Your Flood Safety Action Guide

Protect yourself and your family before a flood

- **Have a Plan.** Develop an evacuation plan for your family. Designate a place where your family will meet after an evacuation order is issued. Make a family communication plan to make sure that you and your loved ones are able to stay connected in the event you're not together during a flood.
- **Keep an emergency kit.** Non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlight, a manual can opener, and a battery-operated radio should be kept available.

What to do 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. This number may also be contacted regarding any other electrical or natural gas emergencies. Do not touch any electrical devices if you're wet or in standing water.
- Tune-in to local commercial radio or television stations, or NOAA Weather Radio (frequencies 162.450 or 162.550) for Watch and Warning Bulletins and emergency instructions.
- The Salinas Fire Department will order or advise evacuations if necessary. If evacuations are called, it is imperative that you follow instructions in the time frame noted. Questions regarding emergency procedures may be addressed to the City of Salinas Fire Department at (831)758-7261.
- If dangerous flooding conditions are imminent, avoid driving a vehicle, if possible. Do not attempt to drive or wade through deep pockets of water. Unstable banks should also be avoided.
- Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.

What to do after a flood?

- Continue listening to the radio for emergency instructions and advice.
- Continue avoiding driving through standing water, if possible.
- Follow established procedures for property damage repairs.



100-year flood zones per FEMA FIRM: This information is provided by the City of Salinas and is applicable to properties within the limits of the City. If you reside in a jurisdiction other than the City of Salinas, contact your regulatory authority for information.



City of Salinas – Department of Public Works
 200 Lincoln Avenue
 Salinas, CA 93901

FLOOD SAFETY

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A Publication for City of Salinas Residents

Para información en Español acerca de este folleto, favor de contactarnos al 831-758-7251.