

**FLOOD SAFETY – PROTECT YOURSELF,
YOUR PROPERTY & OTHERS**

- Know the flood warning procedures.
- During times of heavy rainfall, stay tuned to radio or TV for possible flood warnings.
- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by authorities.
- Do not attempt to cross a flooded area on foot or in a vehicle - TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.
- If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it and seek higher ground immediately.
- Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains.
- Turn off your electricity if your building is being flooded.
- If your basement becomes flooded, pumping water out too fast may cause walls to collapse.
- After a flood, thoroughly clean everything that got wet – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For your convenience, the floodplain maps and other floodplain information can be viewed on the City's website at www.dmgov.org by searching "Flood". In addition, please feel free to contact the following entities with any questions:

City of Des Moines
Permit and Development Center
515-283-4200

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
515-281-8942

Polk County Emergency Management
515-286-2107



CITY OF DES MOINES

FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION



Permit & Development Center
602 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-283-4200

FLOOD WARNINGS

The City of Des Moines currently has an "Early Warning Weather Alert" system in place and operational. This system employs stream, river, and rainfall gauges deployed throughout the area to monitor rainfall amounts and stream and river levels. This information is then gathered and used by the National Weather Service to forecast the levels of flooding expected and to disseminate warnings to residents by weather radio, tone-activated alert radios, and all major TV and radio stations. Civil defense sirens are not used for flood warnings. When flooding is imminent and evacuations become necessary, a coordinated effort between the Code RED emergency notification system and public address systems in emergency vehicles will be used to notify people within the evacuation area. Those that wish to be notified by telephone, TDD, text or e-mail must be registered for Code RED. If you would like to receive Code RED notifications, please register online or contact Polk County Emergency Management at (515) 286-2107. When flooding is possible, stay tuned to your local TV or radio, monitor your basement floor drain for sewer back-ups, and consider moving valuables to higher ground. Warning times vary depending on which drainage basin your property is in, and flash flooding in smaller creeks and basins can occur with little or no warning.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Your homeowners' insurance policy will generally not cover losses due to flooding. Des Moines participates in the National Flood Insurance Program--which makes flood insurance available to everyone in the city. Information about flood insurance can be obtained from your insurance agent. Property owners anywhere in the City can insure their buildings and contents, and renters anywhere in the City can insure their possessions. There is a 30-day waiting period, after the insurance is purchased, before it goes into effect. The city belongs to the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System which earns the citizens a reduction in flood insurance rates.

PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

In a rainfall event, streets, storm sewers, overland swales, ditches, tributary systems, and rivers are all utilized for transportation and storage of stormwater. For this reason, the City of Des Moines has regulations against dumping in streams and drainageways. To report any stormwater concerns such as illegal dumping, illicit discharge, drainage concerns, or polluted runoff from a construction site please contact the city's 24-hour customer service hotline at 515-283-4950.

KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

The 100-year floodplain is the area that has a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year. However, depending on where you are located within the 100-year floodplain, your property may be subject to flooding more often than once every 100 years. Flooding typically takes place in spring and summer but can also occur in January and February from ice jams during unusually warm-weather periods, which cause rapid snow and ice melting. Properties outside of the 100-yr floodplain still have a risk of flooding.

BUILD RESPONSIBLY

The City of Des Moines has adopted regulations which apply to development within flood hazard areas. If you plan any development on your property, you will need to apply for a Floodplain Development Permit in addition to a Building Permit and/or a Grading Permit at the Permit and Development Center. Current regulations require the lowest floor of the building to be at least three feet above the 100-year flood elevation. This regulation is enforced through the permit process. If you have any questions about the permits or the application process, please call 515-283-4200 or stop in to the Permit and Development Center, Armory Building, 602 Robert D. Ray Drive.