

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO AFTER A FLOOD?

- ▶ Listen to the radio for emergency instructions.
- ▶ Avoid driving if possible.
- ▶ Follow established procedure for property damage repairs:

Select a contractor who is licensed in his trade. The County of Trinity requires contractors to be licensed with the Contractor's State License Board (CSLB). They will be able to produce receipts for their licenses. Only licensed electricians may perform electrical work, only licensed plumbers may perform plumbing work, only licensed gas contractors may work on a gas system, only licensed mechanical contractors may perform heating, ventilation and air conditioning work, and only licensed building contractors may perform building related work. Verify that contractors are licensed before signing or agreeing to any repair contracts. It is also recommended that you verify certification of liability and workman's compensation insurance. Complaints against licensed contractors may be referred to the CSLB at 1-800-321-CSLB or on the web at www.cslb.ca.gov.

Require your contractors to obtain the proper permits for work being performed. Permits are required for any permanent improvement (including roofing, siding, additions, alterations, etc.) to a structure. Permits are required even if a homeowner is doing the work himself.

Questions about permits or contractor licensing may be addressed to the Trinity County Building Department at (530) 623-1354.

AND FINALLY-

Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding:

Floodplains are a natural component of the Trinity 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 streambank 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 streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding downstream properties and degradation of water quality.

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

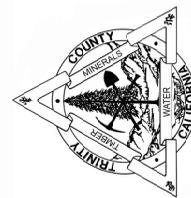
www.trinitycounty.org

www.floodalert.fema.gov

www.fema.gov/hazards/floods

1-888-FLOOD29

This information is provided by Trinity County and is applicable to properties within the limits of the county. If you reside in a jurisdiction other than Trinity County, contact your regulatory authority for information.



T.C. Planning Department
Ph: 530-623-1351, Fax: 530-623-1353
61 Airport Road, PO Box 2819
Weaverville, CA 96093



A Publication for Trinity County Property Owners

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 Trinity County.

It is critical to remember that Trinity County is located in the Klamath and Coastal Mountain ranges of north-west California. Heavy winter snows and warm spring rains subject the lower elevations near rivers and streams to flooding. Trinity County has experienced major storm and flood event since 1950 in the following years: 1955, 1964, 1972, 1974, and 1997.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO BEFORE A FLOOD?

► Determine if your property is located in an area subject to flooding.

The following areas have a known potential for flooding:

Big Bar	Big Flat
Coffee Creek	Del Loma
Douglas City	Hawkins Bar
Hayfork	Island Mountain
Junction City	Kettenpom
Lewiston	Salyer
Weaverville	Zenia

This is not a complete list of areas that are within flood zones, but rather a list of areas with documented flooding problems. A property located within a flood zone does not necessarily have flooding problems. If your neighborhood is not listed, your property may still be within a flood zone, as designated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps. Upon request, the Planning Department at (530) 623-1351, will make free flood zone determinations for properties within the County. FEMA maps are also

available in Trinity County Public Libraries. If located in an "AE", "AO" or "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 Planning & Building Departments also maintain elevation certificates for many properties within the county that have pulled residential permits which may be available for review.

► Purchase flood insurance on 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 County of Trinity 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 the floodplain. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. More than 25 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside the 100-year floodplain. Contact your insurance agency for more information. Flood insurance information is also available in Trinity County Public Libraries.

► **Maintain drainage channels and pipes free of obstruction & debris.** The County of Trinity performs cleaning and maintenance activities on the drainage channels and pipes in County easements & rights-of-way in the fall and winter as needed. 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. By way of County ordinance, it is illegal to dump trash, leaves, landscape debris, paint, grease, or any other material into any portion of the County's drainage system. Such dumping can have devastating impacts on water quality in addition to causing flooding. To report obstructions or illegal dumping, or for questions regarding drainage system maintenance, please

contact the County Dept. of Transportation at (530) 623-1365.

► **Protect your property from the hazards of flooding & wind.** Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the floor level of your property is lower than the "Base Flood Elevation" (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 in Trinity County Libraries. If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. The local fire departments may be available to assist with sandbagging efforts. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages. Attaching plywood or specially made panels over windows and patio doors may help protect against high wind damages associated with tornadoes. The County of Trinity will make site visits to provide one-on-one advice to a property owner regarding flooding and drainage issues on private property for a small fee. For more information please contact the Planning Dept. at (530) 623-1351.

► **Meet improvement requirements.** The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) 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 above the base flood elevation. Please contact the Building Dept. at (530) 623-1354 for more information.

► **Meet permitting requirements.** All development within the county requires a permit. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Building Dept. 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, contact the

numbers above to report any suspected permitted violations.

► **Keep an emergency supply.** Non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlights, a manual can opener, and battery operated radio should be kept available.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO DURING A FLOOD?

If your property is in imminent danger of flooding, please contact **Trinity PUD at (530) 623-5536 or 1-800-968-7783 or PG & E at 1-800-743-5000** (depending on your service area) to request that your power and natural gas be shut off, or for guidance on how to do it yourself. These numbers may also be contacted regarding any other electrical or natural gas emergencies.

► **Tune-in** to local commercial radio or television stations, or NOAA Weather Radio for Watch and Warning Bulletins and any corresponding emergency instructions. If evacuations are called for, it is imperative that you follow instructions in the time frame noted.

Questions regarding emergency procedures may be addressed to the **Trinity County Sheriff Dept. at (530) 623-2611.**

► If dangerous flooding conditions are imminent, **avoid driving a vehicle if possible.** Do not attempt to drive or wade through deep pockets of water or running washes. Unstable banks should be avoided.

► Develop an **evacuation plan** for your family and pets.

► **Avoid low-lying areas.** Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.

**T.C. Planning Department
Ph: 530-623-1351, Fax: 530-623-1353
61 Airport Road, PO Box 2819
Weaverville, CA 96093**