

2005 Flood Emergency Preparedness Manual



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

Water Programs

www.piercecountywa.org/water

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MESSAGE FROM JOHN LADENBURG

The sobering images from the tsunami and hurricanes of recent months have shown us the human suffering that accompanies natural disasters and other emergencies. Pierce County is not immune from disaster, but we can prepare ourselves to get through these events safely.

This Flood Emergency Manual has been mailed to Pierce County households located within the 100-year floodplain to help you prepare for flooding and other emergencies. I encourage you to read this manual and follow the recommendations it contains.

FEMA floodplain boundaries in Pierce County have changed in the past year, and you might find that your land is now within a high risk flood zone for the first time. More information is included in this manual.

All year long, the Water Programs Division of Pierce County Public Works and Utilities works to maintain and repair river levees, improve surface water drainage and minimize the effects of flooding on Pierce County citizens.

But it is impossible to eliminate all risk, and people must be prepared to act if flooding occurs.

Devastating floods have happened in Pierce County before, and despite our best efforts, they may again. Or, some other event such as an earthquake may force you to focus on your immediate

safety and survival. You may need to be self-sufficient for several days before help arrives. Please take seriously this request to be prepared. Read on to see what you can do.



John W. Ladenburg
Pierce County Executive



Keep this manual and put it with your disaster kit.

INTRODUCTION

Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina—Prepare Now

If any good can come from the hurricane Katrina tragedy in August 2005, it is that folks are thinking about preparedness and what they could do to keep those sorts of things from happening to them. FEMA and our local emergency managers all have the same message for you: In the first days following a disaster, plan to be on your own. You need to prepare to be self-sufficient for at least *three days*; *five days* is better.

Disasters such as hurricanes or flooding can be forecast. Other events, such as earthquakes, happen without warning. Either way, all of us need to be prepared so we can react quickly to care for ourselves and our families in any emergency.

This manual gives you the basic information needed to prepare your family for a disaster. Its focus is on flooding in Pierce County, but once your disaster kits are ready, they will serve you well in any emergency.

Fortunately, floods in western Washington are generally a predictable kind of emergency. Staff from Pierce County Public Works and Utilities, Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Department, along with local fire departments, work together to monitor water levels, alert residents of pending flood potential and take action to protect public safety

if the threat of flooding becomes a reality.

We need you to be able to care for yourself and your family until help arrives. Plan to survive at home by making a family disaster kit. If you're told to evacuate, have the most important items from your disaster kit in a pack, ready to grab and go. It should have all your essentials including water, food and medications. Most mass shelter sites are simply buildings. Food or blankets may not be available. Even drinkable water may be in short supply.

What does it take to get started?

This guide has information on how to prepare and store family disaster kits, plus who to call for help and where to get information if a flood is on the way. It's probably information you've heard somewhere before. But that's not the same as taking action.

Please make this the time you do something to get prepared. Keep this manual for future reference, and use it now to take personal responsibility for your own safety. Remember, when a disaster strikes, plan to be on your own for at least the *first three days*.



Harold Smelt, P. E.

Manager

Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
Water Programs Division

MAKE TIME FOR A FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

After hurricane Katrina, many people became separated from their families during evacuation and subsequent relocations. Children ended up in different cities from their parents. The urgency to find one another and confirm their well-being became overwhelming. Even during disasters of much less magnitude, you may have serious anxiety over the safety of family and loved ones.

At times like these, a family communication plan can ease the anguish by providing a way for family members to let others know they are safe. The only catch: your family communication plan needs to be created **BEFORE** an emergency occurs to be most effective.

A family communication plan is a set of information and instructions for the whole family to follow in a disaster. The plan provides essential information that will help rescue, medical and disaster relief workers assist you and your family.

Communication plan basics are listed below. For more details and forms for creating a personalized family communication plan, visit the Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C) website at www.pep-c.org/homepage/ and click on Disaster Plan Forms.

Assemble the info—and share it

To get started, select the elements that apply to your family and assemble the information pages in a notebook. Have a family meeting to make sure everyone knows about your plan, where it is kept and how to use it. Keep the notebook



Involve family members in assembling a disaster kit to last at least 72 hours.

in your kitchen, near the telephone or in some other central location in your home. Place a copy in your disaster kit. Another could be given to your out-of-area contact person.

Your plan must contain personal information in order to be useful. Be judicious in balancing the need to protect your privacy while making sure critical information is available to others during an emergency. At a minimum, each family member should carry a card containing emergency contact information. Review your plan every 6 to 12 months and update it annually as needed.

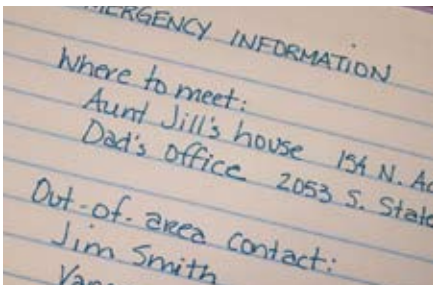
Elements of a Family Communication Plan

1. Floor Plan: Create a floor plan of your home, marking exits, indoor gas and water shut-off valves and your disaster kit location. Make sure family members know all the possible ways to exit your home. Keep all exits clear. Consider that guests or a babysitter who are unfamiliar with your home may be present when this information is needed.

2. Reunion Points: Choose places for your family to meet in case you are apart when a disaster happens. One place should be near your home, for situations when the disaster affects only a localized area. Choose a second place, away from your neighborhood but within the community, in case you cannot return home.

In your communication plan, identify each meeting place, its address and phone number, and the route to try first.

In some emergencies, you may be directed to evacuate to a shelter. In your plan, designate a place inside or outside your home to leave a note for family members not with you when you leave. Write the date and time on the



note, who is with you and your intended destination.

3. Out-of-Area Family Contact – VERY IMPORTANT: Even if local phone service is disrupted, long distance lines may be open. Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your family contact. Your contact person should live far enough away that he/she is not involved in the same emergency. Make sure everyone in the family has the contact person's phone number and understands the procedure for communicating after a disaster occurs.

In your communication plan, list the name, city, day and evening telephone numbers and email address for your out-of-area contact and an alternate contact. Family members should be instructed to get in touch with the contact person and identify themselves, explain what has happened, relate how everyone is and explain what they plan to do.

4. Emergency Numbers and Information: Contact information for your local emergency responders has been included in this manual (page 30). Use the form on page 33 to fill in names and phone numbers for your family physicians, a local contact person and your nearest relative. Also list the name of the local hospital, its address, phone number and emergency room number, and your medical, home and life insurance companies, phone numbers and policy numbers.

5. Important Family Records: For each adult, list employment information such as name of employer, work address and phone numbers. For each child, list school and/or child care information. Include Social Security numbers and birthdates for each person.

6. Emergency Medical Information: Create a separate page for each family member containing the following information:

- Current photo
- Name, address and phone number
- Physician's name and contact information
- Immunization record
- Pharmacy contact information
- Medications
- Medical history information
- Drug allergies

7. Medical Release Forms for Minor Children: Check with your children's school or physician to obtain copies of medical release forms. The purpose of these forms is to authorize others to administer medical treatment to your child during emergency situations. Also find out how you can contact your children at their school or daycare and when and where you can pick them up after a disaster. Designate others to pick up your child should you be unable to pick them up. Keep your child's emergency release card up to date.

8. Emergency Pet Care Information: If you have pets, it is wise to assemble emergency information for them, too.

Useful information includes:

- A photo
- Pet's name, date of birth and breed
- Owner's name and contact information
- Veterinarian contact information
- Boarding facility information
- Out-of-area family contact information
- Medications/allergies and immunization records
- Microchip number

HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR DISASTER KIT

Family kits

A disaster supplies kit is a collection of items a family would probably need to stay safe and be more comfortable during and after a flood or other disaster.

Using the checklist provided (page 7), assemble the items you already have



Store your family disaster kit in large bins or a trash can.

on hand. Then make a shopping list for the things you're missing and complete your disaster kit. Don't forget portable and waterproof containers for storing your kit.

- Pack the kit items into your containers, but don't make the containers too heavy. You may have to move them more than once during an emergency and take some of them with you if you evacuate.
- Do not store your kit in low areas of your home such as a basement, where floodwaters might enter or block your exit. Store your kit in a designated location close to an exit door. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.
- Pack the most essential items together in a single "grab and go" pack to take during an emergency evacuation.
- Repack the contents of your kit at least once a year. Replace older food supplies, make sure clothing and shoes still fit and replace old batteries. Consider any new medications or special needs you or your family members may have.

Work kits

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, it is useful to prepare disaster kits for places other than your home.

A kit in your workplace should be in one pack or container and ready to "grab and go" in case you are evacuated.

Make sure you have food and water in the kit. Also, be sure to have comfortable walking shoes at your workplace in case an evacuation requires walking long distances.

Car kits

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit should contain food, water, first aid supplies, flares, jumper cables and seasonal supplies.



Your car emergency kit should include water, first aid and flares.

For more information on family preparedness go to www.pep-c.org/homepage/ or see the Internet Resources Guide on page 31.

The safest and most reliable emergency water supply is commercially bottled water in its original sealed container. Bottled water is marked with an expiration date and should be replaced with fresh bottles before it expires. Information on treating and storing water in your own containers can be found at several of the sites listed in the Internet Resources Guide on page 31.

DISASTER KIT CHECKLIST

The items listed below have been grouped according to conventional use. But many items have many uses, especially when you have to improvise during an emergency. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive; we encourage you to add things that would make the kit more useful to you and your family. Be sure to consider any special-needs people and don't forget to plan for your pets.

Water

Minimum of 1 gallon per person per day (for drinking, food preparation and personal hygiene). Store enough for 3-5 days.

A NOTE ABOUT WATER

You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. A normally active person needs at least one-half gallon of water daily just for drinking. Additionally, in determining adequate quantities, take the following into account:

- Individual needs vary, depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet and climate.
- Children, nursing mothers and ill people need more water.
- Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed.
- A medical emergency might require additional water.

Food and Food Preparation

Store non-perishable foods, avoiding foods that will make you thirsty. Store enough for 3-5 days.



Your family disaster kit should include enough food for 3-5 days.

Foods

Ready-to-eat meats, fruits and vegetables

Canned or boxed juices, milk, soup

High-energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, low-sodium crackers, granola bars, trail mix

Sugar, powdered creamer, salt, pepper

Instant coffee, tea bags, hot cocoa mix

Cereal

Powdered milk

Comfort foods such as cookies, hard candies

Vitamins

Food for your animals

Food Preparation

Manual can opener (non-electric)

Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils

Eating utensils, mess kits, plates
and cups

Paper towels

Liquid detergent

Small cooking stove/camp
stove and fuel

Matches in a waterproof container

Resealable plastic bags

Heavy duty aluminum foil

Plastic wrap

Food storage containers



First Aid

*Purchase a commercial first aid kit or
assemble your own.*

First aid book or manual

Bandages in assorted sizes

Antibiotic ointment

Antiseptic

Latex gloves (several pair)

Scissors

Tweezers

Needle

Alcohol towelettes

Burn gel

Cool pack

Sunscreen

Lip balm



Insect repellent

Medicine dropper

Aspirin and/or acetaminophen (baby
aspirin if needed)

Anti-diarrhea, antacids and laxatives

Prescription medications

Sanitation and Personal Hygiene

Covered container for use as a toilet

Toilet paper

Heavy duty garbage bags and ties

Newspaper to wrap garbage and waste

Large trash cans

Paper towels

Household chlorine bleach (without
additives) and disinfectant

Plastic bucket with lid

Bar soap, shampoo, liquid detergent

Hand sanitizer, moist towelettes

Towels and washcloths (one set for
each person)

Toothbrush for each person and
toothpaste

Feminine and infant supplies

Birth control supplies

Hairbrush and comb

Razor and shaving cream

Hand mirror

Lotion, lip balm

Sunglasses

Contact lenses and supplies

Spare prescription eyeglasses



For Special-Needs Persons

Infant formula, bottles and pacifiers

Diapers

Powdered milk

Denture supplies

Hearing aid batteries

Insulin and supplies for diabetics

Sleeping and Clothing Supplies

- Heavy blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- Pillows
- Sleeping pads
- Complete change of clothing for each person with extra socks and underwear
- Hats, mittens, scarves
- Heavy work gloves
- Jacket or coat for each person
- Sturdy, water-resistant shoes or boots for each person
- Thermal underwear
- Rain gear
- Sewing kit
- 1/2 inch rope for clothesline and clothespins
- Extra clothing



- Signal flares
- Plastic storage containers
- Paper and pencil
- Whistle
- Battery operated travel alarm clock
- Garden hose
- Rope
- Dust masks
- Light sticks (glow sticks)

Shelter, Communication, Tools and Other Supplies

- Tent
- Plastic sheeting and other shelter materials
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries
- Flashlight with spare bulbs and batteries
- NOAA weather radio
- Utility knife, knife or razor blades
- Small ABC fire extinguisher
- Crescent wrench to shut off gas and water
- Other hand tools such as pliers, a small shovel, hammer, nails, screwdriver
- Axe
- Broom
- High-quality duct tape

Entertainment

- Playing cards
- Books
- Games, puzzles
- Toys for children



Essential Family Identification and Documentation

- Store in a waterproof, portable container. (Much of this should be part of your Family Communication Plan.)
- Cash, traveler's checks, coins and/or credit cards
- Extra set of house and car keys
- Map of the area and phone numbers of places you could go
- Emergency contact list and phone numbers

Credit card and bank account numbers
Inventory of household goods
Medical records for special-needs people

Copies of the following:

Driver's licenses
Birth and marriage certificates
Passports

Citizenship, naturalization papers or visa
Social Security cards
Any other personal identification
Wills, power of attorney
Insurance papers
Immunization records
Deeds, stocks and bonds
Pet licenses and microchip information

DISASTER ESSENTIALS PACK

These are things you will need most in an emergency, especially if you have to evacuate. They should be packed together in a moderate-sized sports bag. Each family member should have his/her own bag.

- Sturdy-soled shoes and socks
- Complete change of clothing
- Leather gloves
- Rain gear or poncho
- Warm hat and gloves or mittens
- Non perishable food
- Water (at least 1 quart)
- Mess kit
- Prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses and reading glasses
- Supply of routinely used prescription and non-prescription medications
- Small first aid kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries and spare bulb
- Whistle
- Battery-operated radio with extra batteries
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Disposable dust mask
- Pocketknife or Leatherman tool
- Sunglasses
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Deodorant/antiperspirant
- Bar of soap
- Razor, shaving cream
- Brush, comb
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Wash cloth
- Hand towel
- Lotion
- Lip balm
- Feminine hygiene
- Birth control supplies
- Book, small games
- Family Communication Plan/out-of-area contact information
- Emergency medical information
- Extra set of house and car keys
- Emergency cash, duplicate ATM card, credit card with available credit
- Personal identification
- Other items you think you might need or want

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If you or someone close to you has a disability or a special need, you may have to take additional steps to

protect yourself and your family in an emergency.

Disability/Special Need	Additional Steps
Hearing/vision impaired	May need to make special arrangements to receive warnings.
Mobility impaired	May need special assistance to get to safety or a shelter.
Single working parent	May need help to plan for disasters and emergencies, specifically to make arrangements for their children's safety and security. Includes retrieving them from school or daycare and overnight accommodations.
Non-English speaking persons	May need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies. Community and cultural groups may be able to help keep people informed.
People without vehicles	May need to make arrangements for transportation.
People with special dietary needs	Should take special precautions to have an adequate emergency food supply.
People with special equipment needs (oxygen, ventilators, etc.).	Make arrangements to have extra supplies and transportation.

If you have special needs:

- Complete a personal assessment. Decide what you will be able to do for yourself and what assistance you may need before, during and after a disaster. Base your plan on your lowest anticipated level of functioning.
- Create a network of neighbors, relatives, friends and coworkers to help you in an emergency. Discuss your

needs and make sure everyone knows how to operate necessary equipment.

- Discuss your needs with your employer.
- If you are mobility impaired and live or work in a high-rise building, have an escape chair. Also include a pair of heavy gloves to protect your hands.
- If you live in an apartment building, ask the management to mark acces-

sible exits clearly and to make arrangements to help you leave the building.

- Keep specialized items ready, including extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for service animals and any other items you might need.
- Make provisions for medications that require refrigeration.
- Keep a list of the type and model numbers of your medical devices.

For more information, read the American Red Cross' "Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs" at www.redcross.org/images/pdf/preparedness/A4497.pdf or "Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities" at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/disability.pdf.

INCLUDE ANIMAL CARE IN YOUR DISASTER PLANS

Animals are affected by disasters, too. Use the guidelines below to prepare a plan to care for pets and large animals.

If you can, give animals a chance to become accustomed to vehicular travel before an emergency arises—they'll be less frightened and easier to move.

Guidelines for pets

Identify shelters:

Before a disaster happens, find out where you can board your pet if you have to leave home. With the exception

of service animals, pets are not typically permitted in emergency shelters as they may affect the health and safety of other occupants. Find out which hotels and motels allow pets in case you can't return home right away. Research some pet facilities outside your local area in case local facilities close.

Gather pet supplies:

Include provisions for your pets in your family disaster kit, including water. Have a pet carrier and leash.

Papers and documentation:

Make sure your pets have proper ID and up-to-date veterinary records. Put copies in your Family Communication Plan.

Guidelines for large animals

If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.

- Ensure that all animals have some form of identification.



- Evacuate animals whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Arrange for vehicles and trailers to be available for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also arrange for experienced handlers and drivers.
- Make sure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.
- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside.

SANDBAGS: EFFECTIVE PROPERTY PROTECTION

Sandbagging is a simple, effective way to prevent or reduce flood water damage. Sand and empty sandbags are available to citizens at local fire station headquarters—consult your local telephone directory for the fire station headquarters near you.

Nonprofessionals or inexperienced people should limit their sandbag placement to shallow areas up to 2 feet deep



Consider sandbags to protect your property. Fire station headquarters have sand and empty sandbags for residents' use.

with slow-moving water.

If groundwater is one source of the flood, sandbags will not be effective without continual pumping to remove water seeping between the sandbag wall and the structure.

Plan ahead for sandbag placement

Sandbags effectively reduce flood damage, so if you decide to use them, try to plan ahead. Consider where you need to place sandbags to protect features on your property, how long your rows of bags need to be and how high they need to be. The county will not fill and deliver sandbags for you.

You can stack up to three bags vertically in a single column (single stack placement) in areas where there is no streamflow velocity, wave action or danger from floating debris.

For areas with stronger flow, sandbags are stacked in a pyramid shape for stability. When pyramid stacking, allow one bag in width for every bag in height.

How does sandbagging work?

- First, arrange for a vehicle to use when picking up your sand and bags. Dry sand weighs 100 to 110 pounds per cubic foot—and even more when wet. Overloading your vehicle with sand can damage the springs and axles.
- Filling sandbags is normally a two- or three-person operation. One person holds the bag while a second uses



Sandbags can help reduce flood damage.

a shovel to insert the sand. The third person stockpiles or stacks the untied bags. The three team members should rotate duties often to reduce fatigue.

- Sandbags are treated to prevent deterioration when stored. Use work gloves and avoid contact with your eyes and mouth. Sandbags will deteriorate when exposed to wetting and drying for several months. If placed too early, bags may be ineffective when needed.
- Fill bags no more than two-thirds full. Fold the top of the sandbag over and rest the bag on the folded portion. The bags are heavy! Be careful not to injure your back or strain muscles when lifting bags. Bend at your knees when you lift.
- Depending on your location, arrange the bags in a single stack or pyramid. Place each succeeding bag tightly against, and partially overlapping, the previous one. Compact each bag in place by walking on it, butting the ends of the sacks together, folding

ends under and staggering joint placement when building vertical rows.

- When the sandbags are no longer needed, you are responsible for disposal. Please do not dump sand in the road or into waterways. Stockpile the sand on your property for future use or use it in your yard and garden.

Use the enclosed response card to request more information on sandbags.

HOW MANY SANDBAGS WILL I NEED?

Use this rule of thumb when calculating how many sandbags you will need:

1 bag in length  = 1 ft.

3 bags in width  = 2 ft.

3 bags in height  = 1 ft.

DURING A FLOOD

A FLOOD IS COMING— WHAT SHOULD I DO?

When you are notified that a flood is imminent within 24 hours, it is time to put your preparedness plans into action.



- Make sure you know where your disaster kit is.
- Start sandbagging if you haven't already done so.
- Move large animals to high ground or take them to a safe place.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Be prepared to evacuate.
- Listen to the radio for weather and flood updates.
- Activate your Neighborhood Emergency Team.
- Check on family and neighbors with disabilities and special needs to see if they need assistance.

If evacuation is recommended, do so as

soon as possible. Have a quick family meeting. Pick two places to meet if you get separated: a location a safe distance from your home and another outside your neighborhood. Make sure everyone has the phone number of a check-in person outside the flood area to call in case of separation.

If you are directed to go to a specific shelter site, take the recommended route to get there. Don't take shortcuts.

Other steps to take, if time allows:

- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary. (Note: if you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.)
- Move valuables, such as papers, computers, photos, furs, jewelry and clothing, to upper floors or higher elevations.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and plastic soda bottles with clean water. Use bleach to sanitize the sink and tubs first. Rinse, then fill with clean water.
- Bring outdoor possessions, such as lawn furniture, grills and trash cans, inside or tie them down securely.



THE FLOOD IS HERE—NOW WHAT?

The most important thing is to stay safe and avoid becoming a victim of flood hazards. Remember, it may take hours or days before help arrives. Follow these precautions:

- Don't drive through a flooded area. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.
- Don't drive around road barriers – the road or bridge may be washed out, and the depth of the water is impossible to determine.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.
- Don't walk through flooded areas. As little as 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. Electrocutation is another major source of deaths in floods. Electric current passes easily through water.
- Look out for animals. Animals are seeking higher ground and may be in places where you don't expect them.
- If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic, and if necessary, the roof. If your attic has no roof access, take an axe or other tool with you to cut a hole in the roof to avoid becoming trapped.



- Take dry clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Then, wait for help.
- Don't try to swim to safety; wait for rescuers to come to you.
- If outdoors, climb to high ground and stay there.

Call the Pierce County Flood Information line at (253) 798-4274 for updated flood information or to report a flooding problem.

AFTER A FLOOD

TAKE CARE WHEN RETURNING HOME AFTER EVACUATION

Words cannot do justice to the sense of devastation you feel when your home has been flooded or damaged by disaster. We know that protecting life is more important than saving property. But it is also sad to lose possessions that are irreplaceable, have sentimental value or that we worked hard to obtain.

Getting home may still be hazardous

During the emotional event of returning to your home, you should be aware that physical dangers may still exist in your neighborhood. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are covered by water. If you come upon a barricade or flooded road, go another way.
- Keep listening to the radio for news about what to do, where to go or places to avoid. Emergency workers will be assisting people in flooded areas. You can help by staying off the roads and out of the way. Don't go to flooded areas on your own to volunteer. If volunteers are needed, public announcements will be made.
- If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded, stay on firm ground. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Watch out for animals that may have found their way onto your property. Use a stick to poke at any debris.
- Once-safe places may now hold hazards. Roads, walkways, floors and steps may be unstable and surfaces may be slippery. Broken glass, nails and debris may cause injury.
- Floodwaters pick up sewage and



Thoroughly dry out your home to reduce mildew damage.

chemicals from roads, industries, farms and homes. Avoid direct contact with flood water or objects that were saturated in the flood. Wear protective clothing such as rubber gloves, eye protection and a face mask when sorting through things.

Enter with care

Upon arriving home, follow these precautions:

- Wear sturdy work boots and gloves.
- Check the outside of the building for loose power lines, gas leaks, foundation cracks or other damage. See if porch roofs and overhangs still have all their supports. If you see damage, a building inspector or contractor should check the building before you enter. Do not enter a building that appears to have structural damage.
- Enter carefully. If the door sticks at the top, it could mean your ceiling is ready to fall. If you force the door open, wait outside the doorway in case debris falls.
- Don't use matches, cigarette lighters, candles, lanterns or any other open flames, since gas may be trapped inside. Instead, use a flashlight to light your way.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or a hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a different location (don't use your home phone). If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.

Do not turn on the electricity if you smell gas.

- Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician.



Use a flashlight when you return home. Don't use candles, matches or an open flame; gas may be trapped inside.

If your power was previously shut off, keep it off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.

- Check for sewage and water line damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using tap water.
- Until local authorities proclaim your water supply to be safe, boil water for drinking and food preparation vigor-

ously for five minutes before using.

- Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by flood waters. Throw out any foods and medicines that may have gotten wet.
- If your home, apartment or business has suffered damage, call the insurance company or agent who handles your flood insurance policy right away to file a claim. Take photos of the damage for flood insurance purposes.
- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance—infants, elderly people and people with disabilities.

GETTING BACK TO NORMAL TAKES TIME

The emotional toll that disaster brings can sometimes be even more devastating than the financial strains of damage and loss of home, business or personal property. Everyone who sees or experiences a disaster is affected by it in some way. It is normal to feel anxious about your own safety and that of your family and close friends. Profound sadness, grief and anger are normal reactions to an abnormal event. Everyone has different needs and ways of coping.

If you don't feel quite like your old self after a flood, accept or seek out opportunities for counseling from local faith-based organizations, voluntary agencies or professional counselors. Additionally, FEMA and state and local governments from the affected area may provide

crisis counseling assistance.

Getting life back to normal as quickly as possible helps people recover more quickly. Here are the basic steps to make your home safe and comfortable again.

Step 1: Take care of yourself first

Protect yourself and your family from the stress, fatigue and health hazards that follow a flood.

Step 2: Give your home first aid

Once it is safe to go back in, take steps to protect your home and its contents from further damage.

Step 3: Get organized

Some things are not worth repairing. Other things may be too complicated or expensive to do yourself. Make the most of your time and money—develop a recovery plan.

Step 4: Dry out your home

Floodwater damages your home and the things in it. It also leaves mud and



When rebuilding, make improvements that will protect your home from future flood damage.

unknown contaminants, and it promotes the growth of mildew. You need to dry out your home to reduce these hazards and the damage they cause.

Step 5: Restore the utilities

The work will be much easier if you have heat, electricity, clean water and sewage disposal.

Step 6: Clean up

The walls, floors, closets, shelves and contents—every flooded part of your home—should be thoroughly washed and disinfected.

Step 7: Check on financial assistance

Insurance, government disaster programs, volunteer organizations and businesses can help you recover from a flood.

Step 8: Rebuild and flood proof

Rebuild correctly and make improvements that will protect your home from damage by the next flood. If you have been repeatedly flooded at this location, consider relocating instead of rebuilding there again.

Step 9: Prepare for the next flood

Protect yourself from the next flood with flood insurance, a family communication plan and disaster kit, and other lessons you learned from your experience.

An excellent publication from the American Red Cross and FEMA is “Repairing Your Flooded Home.” This comprehensive source goes into great

detail about each of the steps listed above and is available free from the FEMA Distribution Center:

FEMA Publications

P. O. Box 70272, Washington, DC 20024
1-800-480-2520

**START MOLD, MILDEW
CLEANUP RIGHT AWAY**

Once flood waters recede, another problem begins.

Mold and mildew will develop within 24-48 hours of water exposure. It will continue to grow until you eliminate the source of moisture and effectively deal with the mold problem.



Materials you'll need

- Buckets and trash bags
- Scrub brush, sponges and rags
- Gloves (latex, rubber) and mask (painter's or respirator)
- Broom, mop and wet-dry shop vacuum
- Non-ammonia soap or commercial cleaner (phenolic or pine-oil based)
- Chlorine bleach to disinfect—1 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water (or up to a 10 percent solution)

Getting started

- First, a water-damaged house needs to be dried out. Open the windows if the humidity outside is lower than

inside. Use fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture unless mold has already started to grow (fans may spread existing mold).

- Turn off the main power if wiring is wet or moldy. Use electricity from another source until an electrician can verify that your home's electrical system is safe.
- Remove wet furniture, rugs, bedding and toys.

Throw away

- Soaked or moldy carpeting.
- Food products that were not stored in watertight containers.
- Wet or contaminated porous materials such as ceiling tiles, sheetrock and wood byproducts.
- Wet insulation, except rigid-type insulation.
- Upholstered furniture that has been wet longer than 48 hours.

Cleaning and disinfecting

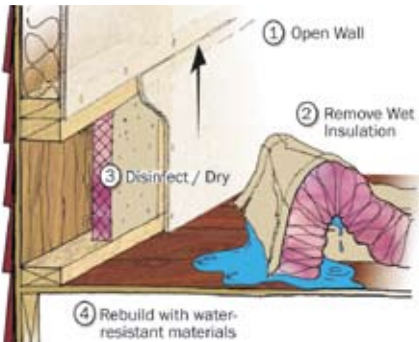
- Wear gloves and a mask and protect your eyes. Clean items first and follow with disinfectants.
- Wash hard surfaces such as metal,



Wear gloves, a mask and eye protection when cleaning up mold.

glass, solid wood, plastic and other nonporous materials with a non-ammonia detergent and hot water. Use a stiff brush on rough surface materials such as concrete. Use a wet-dry shop vacuum to remove water and to clean items such as studs or exposed wood framing. After washing, disinfect all cleaned surfaces with a bleach solution. Let the solution stay on the surface for 10 minutes. Rinse with clear water and let dry.

Note: It is important to use non-ammonia based cleaners. Ammonia that comes in contact with chlorine bleach creates toxic fumes.



Follow these steps to dry out the walls.

Allow all wet areas to dry completely (usually two to three days) before beginning to rebuild or replace the damaged items.

Use the enclosed response card to request more information about mold and mildew.

FLOOD BASICS

DID YOU KNOW...?

- More than 90 percent of floods in the United States are not declared disasters. That means only people with flood insurance are able to recover their losses.
- There is a 26 percent chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage, compared with a 5 percent chance of fire.
- Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters outside of fire. Ninety percent of all presidential-declared U. S. natural disasters involve flooding.
- Twenty-five percent of flooding occurs outside areas formally mapped or designated as being flood prone or floodplain. Even if you are not on a map you may be at risk.
- Since 1985, Pierce County has been

WATCH OR WARNING?

Flood watch means the risk of a flood has increased significantly, but it is uncertain whether a flood will actually occur.

Flood warning means flooding is imminent or already occurring and there is a serious threat to life or property.

declared a federal disaster area five times due to flooding. Flooding in Pierce County typically occurs from rivers and streams. Many areas can flood due to groundwater. Flooding can happen along marine shorelines as well.

- In western Washington, flood season is usually mid-October through mid-April.
- River flooding is extremely dangerous. Deep, fast-moving floodwater spreads out in broad areas along rivers, can peak rapidly with little warning and takes a long time to recede.
- Streams have limited capacity and can quickly overflow their banks. It can take several days or longer for water to recede back into the stream channel after the peak flow.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM IDENTIFIES POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Pierce County has a warning system in place to alert you of impending floods. This gives you time to take action to protect yourself, your family and your property before the flood.

The warning system is in place for the Puyallup, Carbon and White rivers and major county stream systems. Weather forecasts, mountain snowpack, current weather conditions and river flow

information are used to identify potential flood events as early as possible. Using this data, the federal National Weather Service officially declares public flood watches and warnings.

When you are alerted to a flood watch or flood warning, you are urged to follow the advisories and instructions from public officials.

For more information on the technology behind the flood warning system and how to install your own model water-level gage, check the Flood Warning box on the enclosed response card and a copy will be sent to you. Also see the Internet Resources Guide on page 31 for websites with additional weather and flood information.

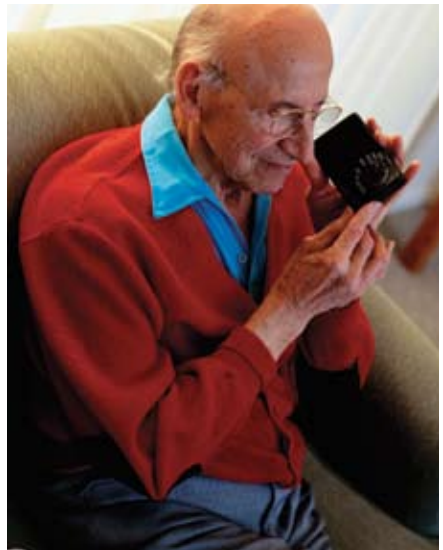
POTENTIAL SHELTERS READY FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION

Some disaster information sources advise you to know the location of the nearest shelter and to practice driving your emergency evacuation route. Emergency evacuation preparedness in Pierce County does not work that way.

In Pierce County, there are approximately 4,000 locations identified as potential emergency shelters. Which ones are activated during any disaster depends on many factors, including the geographic location and type of disaster, the shelter requirements needed and how many people require shelter.

The Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, working with the American Red Cross, will open shelters when needed. Using an emergency telephone system called Intellicast, a pre-recorded message can be delivered to homes and businesses within an affected evacuation area. The recording advises residents of the need to evacuate, shelter locations, evacuation routes and other essential information. Radio and television broadcasts will also tell you about steps to take in an emergency.

The best preparation for this situation is to have your disaster essentials pack ready to go and stay tuned to local news sources for information about what to do next. If you have advance warning that floods or other emergency events are possible, be sure your vehicle has a full fuel tank.



Use a battery-operated radio to hear emergency news reports.

If you are instructed to evacuate

If you are given the option, plan to go to the home of a family member or friend. They will be in the best position to accommodate you and your pets, and can help you be most comfortable in a stressful situation. Otherwise, go to the shelter designated for you, following the instructed route.

Follow these guidelines unless instructed otherwise:

- Listen to the radio, television or your phone messages for the location of emergency shelters and instructions.
- Shut off water, gas and electricity if instructed to do so and if time permits.
- Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your disaster essentials pack.
- Leave a note inside or outside your home with the date and time you left, who is with you and your intended destination.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities and don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.

When you reach the emergency shelter or other safe place, contact members of your support network and your out-of-area contact. Let them know of your location and status. Activate your family communication plan.

YOU CAN PREVENT FLOODWATER DAMAGE AND CONTAMINATION

When flooding occurs, anything in the



Keep drains clear to minimize flood damage.

path of the water may be damaged. But you may be able to manage your property in a way that minimizes flood damage by practicing regular maintenance and planning ahead.

Floodwater poses an even greater hazard when it comes into contact with hazardous and toxic materials. Floodwaters can pick up anything, including garbage, sewage, petroleum products, industrial waste and household hazardous chemicals.

To minimize flood damage, consider these steps:

- Maintain drains, ditches or creeks on your property. Keep them free from yard waste, garbage and other debris.
- Clean up debris in your yard. Old tires, children's toys and other unsecured items can clog catch basins and worsen flooding on your property.
- Elevate or move electric items such as furnaces, water heaters, appliances and electrical panels.
- Install back-flow valves or plugs for drains, toilets or other sewer connections to prevent floodwater from

entering your home.

- Install sump pumps with backup power in crawl spaces or basements.
- Install flood shields to help prevent floodwater entry.
- Consider raising your residence above flood elevation on a new foundation, or even relocating your residence outside the floodplain. Check with your local building department for more information on building codes and permit requirements. For unincorporated Pierce County, contact the Planning and Land Services Department, Building Division at 253-798-3152.

To avoid contributing to floodwater contamination:

- Take all unwanted hazardous materials such as old batteries, used oil, paint thinner, antifreeze and outdated lawn and garden chemicals to a hazardous waste collection facility. To locate the Pierce County facility nearest you, visit www.piercecountywa.org/solidwaste and click on Disposal Facilities.
- Store useable household cleaners,



Take unwanted chemicals and cleaners to a hazardous waste collection facility.

pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, automotive products and chemicals on high shelves or cupboards, in upper levels of your home or in outbuildings on high ground. Avoid storing these items on a garage floor or in a basement where they would be more vulnerable to flooding.

- Store hazardous materials in containers that are sturdy and leakproof with a tight-fitting lid and are securely anchored. Label containers with the name of the contents, the date of storage or purchase, and that it contains a hazardous material.

Avoid direct contact with flood water whenever possible because you do not know what contaminants it may contain.

BOUNDARY CHANGES MAY PUT YOUR HOME IN A FLOODPLAIN

For the first time in 20 years, new floodplain maps for Pierce County are about to be published.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is developing a new countywide Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) to show areas at risk for flooding.

On an aerial photo background, the DFIRM shows parcel lines, current roads and other digital map details that weren't available with the old paper maps. Another benefit: DFIRM eventually will be viewable on the Internet.

Better map, better insurance rates

DFIRM's improved accuracy may make you eligible for lower flood insurance rates. Many Pierce County streams were previously marked as high-risk flood zones without a corresponding flood elevation. This meant higher flood insurance rates because FEMA didn't know what magnitude of risk to assign to your home and defaulted to a high level.

Elevation readings from a DFIRM and an elevation certificate will allow you to rewrite your flood insurance policy to

reflect a measured risk. In most cases this should lower your premiums.

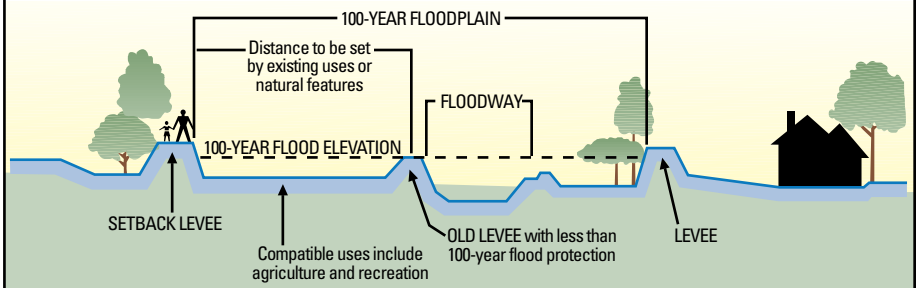
Your floodplain status may have changed

Many floodplains were reduced after the new digital map information was applied. For example, if your home is on the side of a hill, it may no longer be shown in a hazard zone and you may be able to greatly reduce your flood insurance premiums or even cancel the policy.

At the same time, some high-risk flood

FLOOD WORDS

100-Year Flood	The flooding resulting from a storm which has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.	Floodway	The main river channel and surrounding area which is needed to convey the flood flows. No filling or development is allowed in the floodway.
Floodplain	An area which is covered by water during a flood, i.e. "the 100-year floodplain." Development within this area is regulated. The floodplain may also be considered a "floodway."	Levee	A flood-control facility designed to protect an area from flooding. Levees are often rated by the "level of protection" they offer.
Setback Levee	A levee that is set away from the river in a manner to allow the river channel to migrate in the areas between levees.	Revetment	A flood-control facility that reduces erosion along a riverbank and may act as a levee during smaller floods. (Not shown.)





New maps have extended the floodplain boundaries.

areas in Pierce County have increased in size under the new, more accurate assessment. The Puyallup River floodplain showed the greatest change in areas at risk from a 100-year flood (a flood that has a 1 percent chance of occurring each year).

The lower Puyallup Valley, including Fife and the Port of Tacoma, is now in the floodplain. You may be one of the people who has not needed flood insurance in the past and are now living in a designated high-risk zone. Purchasing flood insurance on your existing home is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Most lending institutions will require flood insurance for new construction, refinancing or remodeling loans in high-risk zones. For more information about flood insurance, see page 28.

New map is nearly ready

The Pierce County DFIRM is almost completed. The draft will be available for public comment in January 2006 and should be adopted before the 2006-07 winter flood season. The completed map will eventually be viewable on the Internet.

If you would like a paper copy of the part of the new map that shows your property, please provide your address or parcel number on the enclosed response card and return it, or e-mail your request to pcwater@co.pierce.wa.us.

LIVE NEAR A LEVEE? PRECAUTIONS STILL NEEDED

River floods are extremely variable and highly dynamic. Conditions can change rapidly with little warning and a river levee may not hold up to the forces of nature during a flood. If you live near a levee, do not assume it is fail proof. You still should be alert and watchful during floods.

Pierce County maintains many river levees to protect land that could otherwise be flooded. But none of the levees completely eliminate the risk of future flood damage. The Puyallup River levees between Tacoma and Puyallup can contain a 100-year flood, but fail to meet minimum federal standards for freeboard (extra capacity for a margin of safety). While studies are in progress to find ways to improve this floodwater

control mechanism, it will be several years before the lower Puyallup Valley sees a reduction in its flooding risk. Areas upstream of Meridian Avenue on the Puyallup River and on the Carbon and White rivers have levees that provide less than the 100-year flood level of protection. During high flows, the river commonly tops the levees at many locations. When levee height doesn't provide protection up to the 100-year-flood elevation, floodplains are still considered vulnerable to flooding.

Don't be lulled into a false sense of security by assuming a levee will be able to hold back flood waters every time. Take actions necessary to protect life and property before the flood. Stay alert and informed on river conditions and warnings if flooding is predicted.

NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY TEAMS PROVIDE IMMEDIATE HELP

In Pierce County, you and your neighbors have the opportunity to form Neighborhood Emergency Teams with the help of Pierce County Emergency Management.

In the event of a flood or other disaster, rescue personnel cannot be everywhere at once. Neighborhoods where people are organized and look out for each other will fare better



Neighborhood Emergency Teams can provide help until rescue personnel arrive.

until help arrives. This is especially valuable when there are people with special needs in the neighborhood.

Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams, or PC-NET, offers training for communication, first aid, damage assessment, safety and security, light search and rescue, shelter and special needs, and crime prevention, plus overall coordination of these teams.

For more information call Pierce County Emergency Management at 253-798-6595, or go online to www.piercecountywa.org/prepare and click on PC-NET.

PIERCE COUNTY QUALIFIES FOR LOWER FLOOD INSURANCE RATES

Flood insurance is not automatically available to anyone who wants to buy it. Only communities that participate in the federal National Flood Insurance

Program (NFIP) are eligible for flood insurance. Premiums are based on how well a community is prepared to manage flooding, protect life and property and educate its citizens.

Pierce County participates in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) and receives a rating based on its flood preparedness. Higher

ratings mean lower flood insurance premiums. Currently, Pierce County residents qualify for a 25 percent discount when they purchase flood insurance. Pierce County is proud to maintain a high CRS score so community residents can purchase insurance at more affordable rates.

Do I need flood insurance?

Standard homeowner insurance does not cover flood damage. Federal flood insurance is the only guaranteed coverage available for this kind of damage, and property owners need to buy it separately. Federally insured lending institutions require flood insurance for home loans within certain flood hazard zones.

Flood insurance is not the same as FEMA federal disaster aid. FEMA aid is only available for disasters declared by the president. Floods can cause millions of dollars worth of damage and still not be federally declared disasters. Flood insurance policies pay claims whether or not a disaster is declared. However, the insurance must be purchased before damage occurs in order for a claim to be accepted.

If you live in Pierce County, you are eligible to buy national flood insurance (backed by the National Flood Insurance Program, NFIP). Policies are sold by many insurance companies. If you have difficulty finding insurance, call the NFIP at 1-800-638-6620 or visit www.fema.gov/nfip.

HOW DO I MAKE A FLOOD INSURANCE CLAIM?

To file a claim, the policyholder must call the insurance company or agent that wrote the policy immediately, or as soon as physically possible.

A claims adjuster will be assigned to your case, and you must file a “proof of loss” within 60 days of the flood damage. A proof of loss is your sworn statement of the value of your claimed damages.

Photos help tell the story

When it is safe to return to your home, take photographs inside and out showing the flooding and damage. If possible, take photos that show the water level. Photograph and describe items in writing so you have documentation to give your claims adjuster.

Details support damage assessment

Go through each room and create an inventory of missing or damaged property. Include as much detail as possible, such as manufacturer’s name, date of purchase, place of purchase and price. Attempt to locate receipts, especially for large appliances.

Where feasible, separate damaged property from undamaged property and arrange the damaged items. Keep receipts for your expenses if you are displaced from your home. Let your adjuster know if you need advance or partial payment of loss. For more information, visit www.fema.gov/nfip.

EMERGENCY AND INFORMATION CONTACTS

Pierce County

Flood Information Line.....253-798-4274
(Recorded message, can report problems)

Emergency Management
(24 hours).....253-798-7470

Sheriff (day).....253-798-4721
(evenings).....911

Public Works & Utilities:

Sewer Utility.....253-565-3440
Water Programs.....253-798-2725
Roads253-798-6000

Fire Department (*Refer to the Fire Department listings in the business section of the phone book for your closest fire station.*)

American Red Cross

Mount Rainier Chapter
1235 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98409
Main Office:.....253-474-0400
Disaster/Emergency
Services.....253-474-0300

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Weather and Flood
Advisory.....206-526-6087

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Individual Assistance Center
.....1-800-621-3362
.....1-800-462-7585 (TTY)

Local Communities

Business line phone numbers provided here. **Dial 911 for emergencies.**

City of Buckley

Fire Dept360-829-1441
Police Dept.....360-829-3157
Public Works Dept360-829-1631

City of Fife

Fire Dept253-922-8424
Police Dept.....253-922-6633
Public Works Dept253-922-9315

City of Orting

Fire Dept360-893-2221
Police Dept.....360-893-3111
Public Works Dept360-893-2219

City of Puyallup

Fire Dept253-845-6666
Police Dept.....253-841-5415
Public Works Dept253-841-5505

Town of South Prairie

Fire Dept360-897-8433
Police Dept.....360-897-8878
Sewer/Water Dept.....360-897-8969

City of Sumner

Fire Dept253-863-5451
Police Dept.....253-863-6384
Public Works Dept253-891-3322

City of Tacoma

Fire Dept253-591-5737
Police Dept.....253-798-4721
Public Works Dept.....253-591-5525
Emergency Operations Center
(when activated)253-404-3700

Flood Warning System, Weather and River Information

Pierce County Flood Alert Information:
www.piercecountywa.org/flood

USGS Real-Time River Gage Data:
http://wa.water.usgs.gov/realtime/rt_latest_map.html

NOAA Local and Mountain Weather:
www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/

NOAA River Flow Forecast:
<http://ahps2.wrh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=sew>

US Army Corps of Engineers River Flow:
www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/puy.html

Emergency and Family Preparedness

Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET):
www.piercecountywa.org/prepare
(click on PC-NET)

Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C):
www.pep-c.org/homepage

FEMA Preparation and Prevention Document Library:
www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm

Water Storage:
www.pep-c.org/storagetips/

Publication: Food and Water in an Emergency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov/pdf/library/f&web.pdf

Publication: Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities (American Red Cross): www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/disability.pdf

Publication: Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs (American Red Cross): www.redcross.org/images/pdfs/preparedness/A4497.pdf

Publication: Are You Ready? (FEMA):
www.fema.gov/areyouready/

Publication: Avoiding Flood Damage: A Checklist for Homeowners (FEMA)
www.fema.gov/pdf/hazards/flddam.pdf

Other Useful Links

DFIRM Floodplain Map Supporting Data:
www.piercecountywa.org/pc/interactive.htm
(click on GIS Data Express _ Ordering Data _ Available Data _ select any "County Flood" listing)

Publication: Dealing with Mold and Mildew in Your Flood Damaged Home (FEMA)
www.fema.gov/pdf/reg-x/mold_mildew.pdf

INTERNET RESOURCES CONT'D.

FEMA Homepage:

www.fema.gov

FEMA National Flood Insurance

Program:

www.fema.gov/fima/nfip.shtm

(see also FEMA Preparation and Prevention Document Library link above for more flood insurance information)

Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities:

www.piercecountywa.org/solidwaste
(click on Disposal Facilities or Hazardous Waste Disposal)

Additional Copies

To get additional copies of this manual call us at 253-798-2725 or print a copy from our website:

www.piercecountywa.org/water

CREDITS

Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C):
"Pointers" email publication and website

Flood Facts

FEMA Website: Disasters

www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=/5004

October 2005

FEMA Website:

www.fema.gov

American Red Cross Website

www.redcross.org

Photo Credits:

Tyler Kalberg

FEMA

Pierce County Water Programs Division

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Police _____

Fire _____

Sheriff _____

Other _____

FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Name _____

Phone _____

Name _____

Phone _____

LOCAL HOSPITAL

Name _____

Address _____

Emergency
Room Phone _____

INSURANCE COMPANIES

Home _____

Phone _____

Policy # _____

Life _____

Phone _____

Policy # _____

Auto _____

Phone _____

Policy # _____

NEAREST RELATIVE

Name _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (evening) _____

LOCAL CONTACT

Name _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (evening) _____

OTHER CONTACT

Name _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (evening) _____

Disaster Essentials Pack

These are things you will need most in an emergency, especially if you have to evacuate. They should be packed together in a moderate-sized sports bag. Each family member should have his/her own bag.

- Sturdy-soled shoes and socks
- Complete change of clothing
- Leather gloves
- Rain gear or poncho
- Warm hat and gloves or mittens
- Non perishable food
- Water (at least 1 quart)
- Mess kit
- Prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses and reading glasses
- Supply of routinely used prescription and non-prescription medications
- Small first aid kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries and spare bulb
- Whistle
- Battery-operated radio with extra batteries
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Disposable dust mask
- Pocketknife or Leatherman tool
- Sunglasses
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Deodorant/antiperspirant
- Bar of soap
- Razor, shaving cream
- Brush, comb
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Wash cloth
- Hand towel
- Lotion
- Lip balm
- Feminine hygiene
- Birth control supplies
- Book, small games
- Family Communication Plan/out-of-area contact information
- Emergency medical information
- Extra set of house and car keys
- Emergency cash, duplicate ATM card, credit card with available credit
- Personal identification
- Other items you think you might need or want



Quick Tips

IN A FLOOD EMERGENCY

- Move people to a safe place within your home or building, or to a public shelter if instructed to evacuate.
- Gather sturdy shoes, a change of clothing, a coat, water (1 quart minimum), non-perishable food, necessary medication, eyeglasses, a flashlight, portable radio, toothbrush and comb for each person in individual packs.
- Get your transportation ready to go.
- Listen to the radio for weather and flood updates.
- Sanitize and fill bathtubs, sinks and soda bottles with clean water.
- Turn off utilities at the main power breaker switch and close the main gas shutoff valve if evacuating or if flood water enters the building.
- Leave a note for others if you leave, saying who is with you and where you are going.
- Tend to livestock and pets. Move livestock to high ground or take them to a safe place if time permits.
- Move valuables such as papers, computers, photos, furs, jewelry and clothing to upper floors or higher elevation.

PIERCE COUNTY EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Flood Information Line: 253-798-4274

(Recorded message, can report problems)

Emergency Management (24 hours)	253-798-7470
Sheriff (day).....	253-798-4721
(evening).....	911
Public Works & Utilities:	
Sewer Utility	253-565-3440
Water Programs.....	253-798-2725
Roads	253-798-6000