

DRAINAGE DITCH MAINTENANCE

Do not dump or throw anything in ditches or streams. A plugged channel cannot carry water, so the water has to go elsewhere when it rains. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels and culverts. If your property is near a ditch, please keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Call 419-3491 if you see illegal dumping in Skagit County. Contact city staff if you see illegal dumping in the cities.

FLOODPLAIN LOCATION

Wondering if you live in a flood-prone area?

Skagit County Public Works Department will send you a free copy of the 2004-2005 Skagit Risk mailer which contained a flood warning map and other useful information on flood preparedness. Just call 336-9400.



The Town of Hamilton was hit hard by the October 2003 flood.

SANDBAGS

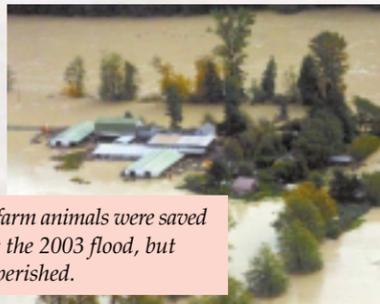
If you live in an area where you would benefit from using sandbags, get some. Skagit County's sandbag resources are limited to and mainly used for the levee system. Fire stations may have sandbags available. A company that sells sandbags is Skagit Farmer's Supply 757-4055. They do not come with sand. Businesses that sell sand can be found under "sand and gravel" in the phone book yellow pages.

PROPERTY PROTECTION

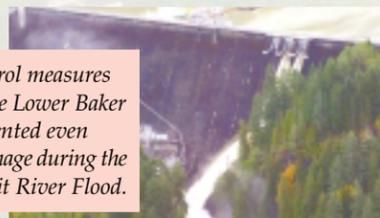
Skagit County Planning and Permit Center can help you decide how to best protect your property from flood damage. Some options to consider are:

- **Elevating** buildings so water does not enter the structures.
- **Construction Barriers** out of fill or concrete between building and floodwaters.
- **"Dry Floodproofing"** to make the building walls and floors watertight so water does not enter.
- **"Wet Floodproofing"** to modify the structure and relocate the contents so that floodwaters do little or no damage.

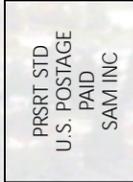
Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing. County residents may contact the Planning and Permit Center at 336-9410 for information or assistance with property protection. City residents may contact their city building department for more information.



Many farm animals were saved during the 2003 flood, but many perished.



Flood control measures taken at the Lower Baker Dam prevented even further damage during the 2003 Skagit River Flood.



SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
Surface Water Management
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625



SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

2005-2006

See us on the web at
www.skagitcounty.net

YOU LIVE IN THE FLOODPLAIN!

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Emergency Phone Numbers:

River Level Hotline
(recording) 419-3425

Dept. of Emergency Management
428-3250

Call 911 only during
life-threatening situations.

THE LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

The Skagit River and its tributaries have a historic pattern of flooding. Substantial floods have occurred in 1815, 1856, 1897, 1909, 1917, 1921, 1949, 1951, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1990, 1995, 1996, and 2003. Flooding is usually caused by heavy, warm rains which melt the snow in the lower elevations. The upriver dams have reduced the damage downstream since their construction, but the existing levee system from Sedro-Woolley west is not designed to hold back a major flood.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Any property owner in Skagit County is eligible to obtain flood insurance that covers flood damage from ponding, drainage, snowmelt, runoff, and surface water. Contact your insurance agency or broker for more details. Since flood damage is not covered under your homeowner's insurance policy, lenders require flood insurance for most home loans. Remember, there is a 30-day waiting period for your flood insurance policy.

If you think you are above the flood plain, you may receive a substantial reduction on your premiums if you have an elevation certificate that shows your structure is above the flood elevation. Contact a professional land surveyor for more information.



Flooded farmhouse, 2003 Skagit River flood.

FLOOD WARNING

The Skagit County Department of Emergency Management will coordinate the public notification when required. The Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) is activated when necessary and includes the local radio stations listed here.

Keep your battery-operated radio turned to a local station during periods of heavy rain. Tune to the local EBS for information on evacuations, amount of time you have, the location of public shelters, road closure information, etc. If there is a need to evacuate, you will be notified through the EBS, door-to-door contacts, and all other means available including mobile sirens and public address systems.

CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

A permit is required by ordinance for any development in the flood plain. Always check with Skagit County Planning and Permit Center at 336-9410 before you build on, alter, regrade, or place fill on your property (or your city building department for city residents). A permit may be needed to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties. If you see construction without a permit sign posted, contact Skagit County Planning and Permit Center or your city building department.

All substantial improvements to existing buildings in the flood plain require the building be treated as a new building. A substantial improvement is when the value of an addition, repair, or reconstruction project exceeds 50% of the value of the existing building. Contact Skagit County Planning and Permit Center or your city building department for more information on substantial improvements.

KBRC - 1430 AM

KLKI - 1340 AM

KAPS - 660 AM

FLOOD SAFETY

In the event of an evacuation:

- **Remember, a supply of drinking water, emergency food, first aid kit, and flashlights are essential.**
- **Secure your home before leaving:** turn off electricity, gas, and water.
- **Fill your car's gas tank,** as gasoline pumps will not be working if electricity has been cut off.
- **If there is time,** take the following: **prescription drugs, food** (especially if you require a special diet), **eyeglasses, clothing** (enough for at least 24 hours), **personal items** (toiletries, documents, photo albums, etc.), **bedding, baby or child supplies** (food, diapers, toys), **money and identification.**



Significant flooding between Burlington and Sedro-Woolley required the evacuation of many households.

This brochure contains important information on flood preparedness and emergency information. Please take the time to read this brochure now and keep it handy throughout the flood season.



The 2003 Skagit River Flood made national news and was declared a federal disaster by President George W. Bush.

NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS OF FLOODPLAIN

Floodplain lands and adjacent waters combine to form a complex, dynamic physical and biological system found nowhere else. When portions of floodplains are preserved in (or restored to) their natural state, they provide many benefits to both human and natural systems.

These benefits range from providing aesthetic pleasure to reducing the number and severity of floods, helping handle stormwater runoff and minimizing non-point water pollution.

Such natural processes cost far less money than it would take to build facilities to correct flood, stormwater, water quality and other community problems.

Natural resources of floodplains fall into three categories: Water resources; Living resources, and; Societal resources.

The following describe each category's natural and beneficial functions.

Natural flood and erosion control

Over the centuries, floodplains develop their own ways to handle flooding and erosion with natural features that provide floodwater storage and conveyance, reduce flood velocities and flood peaks, and curb sedimentation.

Biologic resources and functions

Floodplains enhance biological productivity by supporting a high rate of plant growth. This helps to maintain biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems.

Floodplains provide excellent habitats for fish and wildlife by serving as breeding and feeding grounds.

Societal Resources

People benefit from floodplains through the food they provide, the recreational opportunities they afford and the scientific knowledge gained in studying them.

