

City of Richmond

Flooding Preparedness



Department of Public Utilities
Water Resources Division

Office of
Emergency Management



What is My Risk of Flooding?

Floods are the most common hazard in the United States and result from a variety of causes. Proximity to the James River, steep slopes and hills, an abundance of paved surfaces, high population density, and other factors common to urban areas increase the risk of localized and overland flooding in the City of Richmond.

The Shockoe area of the City has historically flooded due to heavy rainfall and its location in the floodplain at the lowest elevation in the City. A number of other places in the City also flood when river levels rise, particularly areas along the James River. And because the source of James River is in the Appalachian Mountains, springtime river levels often rise from snow melt in the mountains in addition to spring rains.

Flooding can happen anywhere at anytime of year so make sure you are prepared.

Causes of Flooding

- 💧 Spring thaw of snow & ice
- 💧 Heavy rainfall events
- 💧 Tropical storms & hurricanes
- 💧 Nor'easters
- 💧 Construction & development
- 💧 Abundance of paved surfaces & structures
- 💧 Blocked storm inlets
- 💧 Levee or dam failure
- 💧 Lack of trees/vegetation to absorb stormwater & slow runoff.





Never drive around barricades

 Most flood fatalities occur in vehicles

 12 inches of water can sweep a car off the road



weather.gov/flood



What Should I Do If I Experience A Flood?

- Make an evacuation plan and share that plan with your neighbors and loved ones.
- Keep an emergency supply kit.
- Sign up for the City's alerting system, Code Red™. Go to richmondgov.com to learn more.
- Tune in to local radio or television for information.
- Go to higher ground and avoid areas that are already flooded.
- ***Do not*** walk through moving water. Flood waters are often contaminated with harmful chemicals and debris that are not visible from the surface.
- ***Do not*** drive into flooded areas. A foot of water will float most vehicles. The depth of the water may not be obvious and the road could be washed out below the water. *Most flood fatalities occur in vehicles.*
- If your home has been flooded and authorities have announced that it is safe to return to the area, practice caution when re-entering your home. Remove wet contents immediately to prevent the development and spread of mold.



Do I Need Flood Insurance?

More than 20% of flood claims come from properties outside of high-risk flood zones.

Losses due to flooding are *not* covered under typical homeowner's policies

Visit "Assess Your Risk" at floodsmart.gov and enter your address to see your risk for flooding and find flood insurance in the area.

- ✓ For flood zone information, call the Department of Public Utilities Water Resources Division at 804-646-7586
- ✓ Visit: <http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicUtilities/waterResources.aspx>
- ✓ For preparedness information, call (804) 646-2504 or email askemergencymanagement@richmondgov.com
- ✓ Visit: <http://www.richmondgov.com/fireEmergencyManagement.aspx>
- ✓ Connect with Emergency Management:



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Additional Resources:
www.ready.gov/floods | www.floodsmart.gov
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