



Are you flood-ready? Climate change has made extreme weather the new normal, and as the rainy season approaches, Valley Water encourages you to take some time to make sure you are ready in case of a flood. It's important to remember that floods can happen anytime it rains.

While Valley Water's projects have improved flood protection for more than 100,000 homes, businesses and properties, parts of Santa Clara County are susceptible to flooding every year.

It's important to plan ahead in the event of a flood or any other emergency. Follow these Get Flood Ready essential flood tips to keep your family, home, and business safe and prepared **BEFORE** an emergency.



[Develop an emergency plan \(https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/flood-safety-advice-during-after\)](https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/flood-safety-advice-during-after)

An essential step toward being flood ready is preparing for an emergency. Discuss with members of your household what to do during a disaster. Agree on a meeting spot in case you are separated and ensure everyone knows a safe route to higher ground in the event of flooding. Identify emergency contacts in and out of town and a caretaker for individuals with special needs and pets. Write these details down and share a copy with all household members. Please visit ready.gov/plan (https://ready.gov/plan) for more details.



[Put your 3-day emergency kit together \(https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/flood-safety-advice-during-after\)](https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/flood-safety-advice-during-after)

After designing your plan, create an emergency kit with tools and supplies, non-perishable food, and water. When [storing emergency water supply](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/creating-storing-emergency-water-supply.html#:~:text=Store%20at%20least%201%20gallon,living%20in%20a%20hot%20climate.) (https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/creating-storing-emergency-water-supply.html#:~:text=Store%20at%20least%201%20gallon,living%20in%20a%20hot%20climate.), remember you will need 1 gallon per person per day for a minimum of three days. Keep a copy of your emergency plan in your kit. Please visit [ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit) (https://www.ready.gov/kit) for more details.

[Download disaster emergency apps \(https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/sign-up-for-emergency-alerts\)](https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/sign-up-for-emergency-alerts)

Sign-up for Santa Clara County's official emergency alert and warning system, [AlertSCC](https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC) (https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/AlertSCC). Use the information provided by AlertSCC in addition to local, state, and federal alert and warning systems to get the most up-to-date



(<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps.html>) app, an all-hazards app allowing you to receive and monitor flood alerts based on location. To learn more, [click here](#):

(<https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sign-emergency-alerts>).



Know your flood risk (<https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/is-your-home-in-a-flood-zone>)

You don't have to live next to a creek to be impacted by flooding. [Check whether your home or business](#) (<https://www.valleywater.org/floodzone>) is in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated flood zone (Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)) and learn how to interpret FEMA flood maps. Using a flood map, you can see the relationship between your property and the areas with the highest risk of flooding. Understanding the changing flood risks helps you prepare and protect your family and property. You can also [call your local floodplain manager](https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/report-creek-blockages-local-flooding) (<https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/report-creek-blockages-local-flooding>) to determine whether your property is in or out of a FEMA designated SFHA. Your floodplain manager may have information* about additional problems not shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM**), such as flood depth data, special flood-related hazards, historical flood information and natural floodplain function areas. Contact Valley Water's Community Projects Review for additional map reading services at 408-630-2650.

* Available information could vary.

**FIRM - Official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated the SFHAs, the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.



Get flood insurance ahead of time (<https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/flood-insurance>)

Whether you live inside or outside of the FEMA designated SFHA, if you own property, you should consider purchasing flood insurance for the protection and peace of mind it brings. Even if you already have a policy, most property owners and renter's insurance policies don't cover damage from natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

If you do live in a FEMA-designated flood zone, you must purchase flood insurance if you have a federally insured mortgage. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers flood insurance to help you protect the life you've built and recover more quickly after a flood. If you're a renter, the



Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase until your flood insurance policy goes into effect. To find a local agent, visit [FloodSmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov/) (<http://www.floodsmart.gov/>) or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) center at 877-336-2627.



[Protect your home from flood threats](https://www.valleywater.org/sandbags) (<https://www.valleywater.org/sandbags>)

Valley Water offers [free, filled sandbags](https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sandbags) (<https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sandbags>) for residents of Santa Clara County. Loose sand and empty bags for self-filling are also available at various locations; make sure to bring a shovel, just in case.

FEMA has prepared the [Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your Home From Flooding](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_homeowners-guide-to-retrofitting_guide.pdf) (https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_homeowners-guide-to-retrofitting_guide.pdf). This guide is specifically for homeowners who want to know how to help protect their homes from flooding. Homeowners need clear information about the options available and straightforward guidance that will help make decisions. This guide gives you both, in a form designed for readers who have little or no experience with flood protection methods or building construction techniques.



[Keep debris and trash out of our streams](https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/report-creek-blockages-and-local-street-flooding)

(<https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/report-creek-blockages-and-local-street-flooding>)

Healthy, flowing creeks reduce flood risks by carrying stormwaters away from properties and roads. Don't pollute, dump, or drain anything into our waterways.

Dumping into a stream is illegal; it affects the water quality, creek habitat and can cause blockages, increasing flood risks. Report blockages like wood or debris dumping in creeks to the Valley Water Watersheds Operations & Maintenance hotline at 408-630-2378. Report pollution in a creek, pond, or reservoir, call 1-888-510-5151. You can also report these issues through Valley Water's customer service portal, [Access Valley Water](https://access.valleywater.org/) (<https://access.valleywater.org/>).



[Understand shallow flooding risks - don't drive through standing water](https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/flood-safety-advice-during-after)

(<https://www.valleywater.org/floodready/flood-safety-advice-during-after>)

Never walk or drive through flooded areas, no matter how shallow. Six inches of moving water can cause an adult to fall. [It just takes 12 inches of flowing water to carry off a small car; 18 to 24 inches for larger vehicles](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=el6mllHKrVY) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=el6mllHKrVY>).

Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road. Understand shallow water flooding risks—don't drive or walk through standing water. [Turn Around Don't Drown®](https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-turn-around-dont-drown) (<https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-turn-around-dont-drown>)



[Build responsibly in floodplains](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_homeowners-guide-to-retrofitting_guide.pdf)

(https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_homeowners-guide-to-retrofitting_guide.pdf)

Construction within Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) zones has special permit requirements from your local government. Property owners can also make physical alterations to buildings to reduce flood risks and flood insurance premiums, such as elevating a structure. Check with your local floodplain manager first to ensure compliance with special requirements **before** you build or begin upgrades to your property. [Contact your local floodplain manager \(https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/report-creek-blockages-local-flooding\)](https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/report-creek-blockages-local-flooding) for more information.

Remember, we all need to prepare for floods. GET FLOOD READY **before** an emergency.... Be aware. Be prepared. Take action.

Be Prepared– Stay Informed During Storms & Emergencies

While Valley Water's projects have improved flood protection for more than 100,000 homes, businesses and properties, parts of Santa Clara County are susceptible to flooding every year.

As the rainy season approaches, these additional flood protection resources can be helpful to ensure you are flood-safe:

- [Flood Safety Advice: Before, During, After \(https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/flood-safety-advice\)](https://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/flood-safety-advice) - Even if you feel you live in a community with a low risk of flooding, remember that anywhere it rains, it can flood. Flooding is the most common and often the most destructive type of natural disaster. Although floods are often associated with overflowing rivers and sea swells accompanying tropical storms, they can happen in areas far from a body of water. By being prepared and following safety advice, you can have peace of mind during flood events, knowing that you have taken steps to protect yourself and your loved ones. Ultimately, following flood safety advice is important because it prioritizes your safety, protects your property, supports emergency response efforts, and contributes to the resilience and well-being of your community.



from the sensors. Includes the flood watch thresholds and ALERT data. You can find an information video on how to use the portal on our [YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtTOXBq8QOk) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtTOXBq8QOk>). *Please Note: Raw real-time data is always preliminary.*

- **National Weather Service Alert** (<https://www.weather.gov/alerts>) - Watches, warnings, or advisories for Santa Clara County. This page shows alerts currently in effect for the county and is normally updated every two to three minutes.
- Follow Valley Water on Social Media: [X](https://twitter.com/valleywater) (<https://twitter.com/valleywater>) (formerly Twitter), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SCVWD/) (<https://www.facebook.com/SCVWD/>), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/scvwd/?hl=en) (<https://www.instagram.com/scvwd/?hl=en>) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/valleywater) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/valleywater>).
- **2023 Flood Awareness Mailer** (<https://online.flipbuilder.com/tkap/qkwt/>). As rainy seasons approach, we encourage you to take some time to make sure you are ready in case of a flood. Read our annual flood awareness mailer to learn more about how to Get Flood Ready.



(<https://online.flipbuilder.com/tkap/qkwt/>).

Click the image above to read Valley Water's Flood Plan Mailer with additional flood information.



(<https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.us-west-1/s3fs-public/2023%20CountywideMailer.pdf>)

Click the image above to read Valley Water's Countywide Mailer with additional flood information.



(<https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.us-west-1/s3fs-public/2023%20flood%20mailer.pdf>)

Click the image above to read Valley Water's Flood Tips Postcard.

Questions?

Call Valley Water at (408) 265-2600 or use [Access Valley Water](https://access.valleywater.org/) (<https://access.valleywater.org/>), our online customer service portal.

Get Flood Ready

[Sign up for emergency alerts \(/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sign-emergency-alerts\)](/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sign-emergency-alerts)

[Sandbags \(/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sandbags\)](/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sandbags)

[Surface Water Data Portal \(https://alert.valleywater.org/\)](https://alert.valleywater.org/)

[Flood safety advice \(/flooding-safety/flood-ready/flood-safety-advice\)](/flooding-safety/flood-ready/flood-safety-advice)

[Are You in a Flood Zone? \(/floodzone\)](/floodzone)



[Flood Insurance \(/flooding-safety/flood-ready/flood-insurance/\)](#)

[Historical Flood Reports](#)



[Stream Maintenance Program](#)



[Flood Emergency Action Plans](#)



[Preparation for Extended Power Outages](#)



[Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)



[Dam Safety Program](#)



[Climate Change Action Plan](#)



[Levee Safety](#)



[HEC-2 and HEC-RAS data library](#)



[Vertical Control Network](#)

