

Automatic Flood Wall Deployment Skit

by

Wickham FLL Team 2

CAST

Narrator - Hunter B.

Channel Surfer - Hunter S.

Neighbor - Garion

TV News Anchor - Jack

Meteorologist - Akash

Scientist - Forrest

Engineers - Ben, Bernardo

CDC - Joey, Hunter B.

National Weather Service - Austin

TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes

SCENE - DESCRIPTION

NARRATOR

It is June in Iowa. The scene is a Coralville living room inside a house near the Iowa river just before the next big flood event. A Coralville resident is sitting on the sofa (3 chairs) in front of a Television (trifold cardboard on a desk).

CHANNEL SURFER

Wow! It is sure raining hard out there...

Suddenly a Neighbor rushes into the room and sits down next to the Channel Surfer.

NEIGHBOR

(out of breath)

Hey, turn on the TV!!! There is something happening with the weather!

Channel Surfer turns on TV. The TV News Anchor appears on screen.

TV NEWS ANCHOR

The storm is raging! Do not turn off this channel! No matter what, don't go outside either! What started out as a nice, gentle storm, but now we're becoming Atlantis! Do not drive cars now or take a walk because just a bit of rain can sweep a grown man off his feet! Stay clear of the river and just going outside! So just stay clear of the flood. Luckily, the local news room is perfectly safe. Over to weather...

The Meteorologist appears on screen.

METEROLOGIST

Meteorologist Akash reporting. We're predicting a flood in next couple of days. The wind is starting to pick up from the southwest and the clouds are starting to roll in. This will bring heavy rains most of the week. Last week, because of the heavy rain the river level rose to 12 feet 9 inches and this week we're going to get 2 inches more which will turn it into a major flood.

CHANNEL SURFER

Hey, let's hear the latest from the National Weather Service.

The neighbor gets up and gets a weather radio and turns it on. The National Weather Service radio rep stands up.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The National Weather Service is predicting that the Iowa River near Coralville has the potential to exceed its banks shortly after 10pm. If there is no protection to the surrounding area the community should expect some encroachment in low lying areas. Emergency agencies and responders along with the National Weather Service remind motorists to "Turn around, don't drown". Do not drive your vehicles in areas with standing water.

NEIGHBOR

The Science channel was running a series on floods tonight, let's turn to that.

Channel surfer changes the channel. A scientist appears on TV.

SCIENTIST

What is a flood? A flood is the overflow of water that covers land that is normally dry. Reasons for a flood include previous heavy snow, dam breaks, and storm winds pushing water onto land. Floods can be caused by heavy rains in distant places as the water is carried away by rivers. Scientists try to minimize damage and injury from floods. To do that we use sensors in rivers and weather satellites from the global precipitation measurement program to predict when and where floods will occur. In Iowa we have a website called the Iowa Information System to alert people about flood maps and shelter areas. Here is more advice from the scientists of the Centers for Disease Control...

Two CDC representatives appear on TV.

CDC 1

As a CDC reminder, our principles are: (1) Stay Prepared (2) Stay Safe and (3) Rebuild better next time. Estimates are that over half of all flood related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into flood water. Second highest percentage of drownings occur when people walk into or near flood waters. Just 6 inches of water is necessary to sweep you off your feet and just 2 feet of water can move a car.

CDC 2

Once flooding has begun, if you aren't prepared there is little time to construct walls to protect people, pets and property. You should stock your

home with supplies that may be needed during the emergency period. At a minimum, these supplies should include: Several clean containers for water, large enough for a 3-5 day supply of water. A 3-5 day supply of non-perishable food. A battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.

CHANNEL SURFER

Talking about flood preparation and rebuilding better, didn't we complete that new automatic flood wall idea last year? Let's check the University of Iowa channel...

Channel surfer changes the channel again. Two engineers appears on TV.

ENGINEER 1

Hello, I am head engineer Ben. After the flood of 2008 - working with the Iowa Flood Center at the Stanley Hydraulics lab - we engineers designed a solution to contain and prevent our local flooding around the iowa river. This is a diagram of the flood wall we have installed. You may have not even noticed it is there since it was designed to only raise up when the flood water starts to rise along the river bank. The solution is a long, deep trench that was built along the low lying flood area. We installed a durable wall in the trench that is sealed on the non-river side which automatically pops up as water spills into the trench. The pressure from the water underneath the wall forces it to rise up to a height of 6 feet above ground.

ENGINEER 2

We originally looked at a concrete wall but it was too heavy to lift by water pressure. We also considered a metal wall but in addition to weight it would rust over time. We settled on a plastic wall but it will need to be replaced in

about 50 years as the sun affects it over time. While it was expensive to build and deploy this wall it will cost the city less than the property damage from another flood like we had in 2008.

All stand up.

ALL

Thanks automatic flood wall solution!