

**Turn Around, Don't Drown!**



# **FLOOD BULLETIN**

***FALL 2023***



Dear Neighbor,

As witnessed along the Chehalis River at the start of 2022, floods can happen fast and with little warning. Floods threaten life, property, and water quality; and they are the most common natural hazard in Thurston County. This Flood Bulletin contains information on flood risks in Thurston County and disaster preparedness measures you can take to keep yourself, your family and pets, and your property safe. Our community is stronger and more resilient when we work together and prepare. Please take a moment to review the information in this Flood Bulletin.

A simple action you can take today to be prepared is to sign up for Thurston Community Alert, or TC Alert. With TC Alert, you can get up to the minute alerts on your smartphone and other devices. Alerts can include flood warnings, evacuation notices and instruction, or severe weather alerts. Learn more and sign up at [tcalert.org](http://tcalert.org).

Stay flood ready and stay safe!

**Carolina Mejia**

Thurston County Commissioner  
-District One

**Gary Edwards**

Thurston County Commissioner  
-District Two

**Tye Menser**

Thurston County Commissioner  
-District Three

**Prepare to Protect!**

## PREPAREDNESS EXPO

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 2023  
10:00 AM TO 2 PM**

**PETER G SCHMIDT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
237 DENNIS ST., TUMWATER WA**

**FREE ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE  
FAMILY!**

SEE PAGE 21 FOR MORE INFO

**FLOOD  
AWARENESS WEEK**

**OCTOBER  
16-20**

Get preparedness tips throughout the  
week @ThurstonEM



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Thurston County is recognized as a StormReady community by the National Weather Service. For more information on StormReady programs, visit [www.stormready.noaa.gov/](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/).



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**StormReady**



# FLOODPLAINS & FLOODING

Floodplains and adjacent waters combine to form an ever-changing environment that provides many benefits, such as:

- natural beauty
- reduced flooding
- reduced stormwater runoff
- prevention of stormwater pollution

*For example, slowing floodwater allows dirt and other pollutants to settle, which cleans the water. Plants and soil act as natural water filters to trap pollutants and clean dirty water.*

## WHAT FLOODPLAINS PROVIDE

### flood and erosion protection

Floodplains develop ways to handle flooding and erosion with natural features providing floodwater storage and passage. This reduces flood speeds, volume peaks, and curbs sedimentation.




### biological resources

Floodplains support a high rate of plant growth. This helps to maintain biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems.

### higher quality of life

Floodplains benefit people by providing soil for farming, recreational opportunities, and scientific knowledge. Understanding that floodplains are community assets, not "problem areas," can improve the quality of life for all residents. Parks, bike paths, open spaces, wildlife conservation areas, and aesthetic features are important to citizens. Assets like these make the community more appealing to potential employers, investors, residents, property owners, and tourists.

## PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

-  Don't clear or build in a flood plain.
-  Plant native trees or shrubs along streams and rivers.
-  Do not dump anything in storm drains, ditches, or waterways.

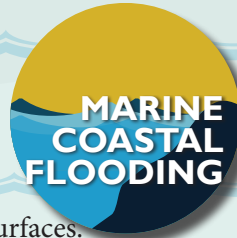
## TYPES OF FLOODING

Rivers, lakes, coastlines, and other sources, can independently cause flooding. However, they often combine to make floods more severe.



Rivers flood when too much rain falls in too short a time for the river to carry it away. The severity is increased when the ground is frozen and cannot absorb rain, when melting snowpack loads excess water into the system, and when high tides and winds block or slow water movement, causing it to back up in the river.

Coastline flooding along Puget Sound can occur from "King Tides," but generally is a combination of other factors. High tides, high on-shore winds, and runoff all contribute to coastal flooding.



Water cannot soak into roads or other hard surfaces. As we build more homes, buildings, and roads, less water can soak into the ground causing flooding when rain falls faster than it can flow off these hard surfaces. As more forest land is converted to lawns, lots, and impervious surfaces, rainwater absorption decreases and runoff increases. Also, storms are becoming more intense. We're getting the same amount of rain in a year, but it is heavier and falls in a shorter amount of time. This can lead to more frequent flooding in urban areas.

Lake flooding results when more water goes into the lake than runs out. As a result, the lake level rises, flooding low areas. Many factors combine to cause lake flooding, such as storm intensity, groundwater levels, soils, snowpack, outlet size, frozen ground, wind, and urbanization.



Groundwater flooding is generally caused by two or more seasons of above-normal rainfall, including a cool wet summer. The first wet season elevates groundwater levels, followed by a cool wet summer which keeps the level elevated. Flooding likely begins with the next above-normal rainy winter. The risk of groundwater flooding is greatest in late winter through late spring, after winter rains have saturated the ground.

# FLOODPLAINS & FLOODING

Two primary causes of groundwater flooding include:

- Consecutive monthly rainfall of more than 10 inches per month, and
- Extended rainfall during the course of a year.

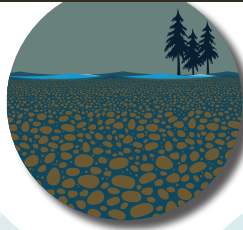
Both causes keep groundwater levels elevated for long periods of time - leading to damaged structures and contaminated wells.

It can take as long as five years for groundwater to move through underlying soils and into the local rivers and lakes. This means flooding can be delayed or extended over a longer period of time.

The highest risk of groundwater flooding is in the Salmon Creek Basin located near the Olympia Regional Airport. Other high-risk locations include the area east of Lacey and outside of Yelm.

The greatest influence on how much rain is received in Thurston County comes from Pacific weather patterns. Phenomena such as El Niño, La Niña, atmospheric rivers, and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation all influence the amount of rain we receive. The effect of these phenomena on rainfall has begun to change, making it harder for the National Weather Service to create long-term predictions.

To better understand our local rainfall events, global weather patterns, and effects on our groundwater levels, Thurston County maintains a monitoring network that tracks precipitation and groundwater levels over time. Go to [water.thurstonstormwater.org](http://water.thurstonstormwater.org) to explore local water and weather trends. As of July 2022, groundwater levels are slightly above average throughout the county.

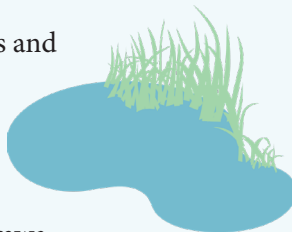


## STORM PONDS

Stormwater flows over roads and other hard surfaces into streams, lakes, or groundwater. Storm drains, ditches, pipes, and other stormwater facilities help collect and carry water away from roads and neighborhoods.

Stormwater ponds hold water and slowly release it so creeks and rivers do not overflow during heavy rains.

Thurston County Public Works conducts routine stormwater pond inspections and offers technical advice and assistance. Drainage problem? Email [stormwater@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:stormwater@co.thurston.wa.us) or 360-867-2095. For more information on stormwater facilities, visit the county's stormwater site at [ThurstonStormwater.org](http://ThurstonStormwater.org).



## TRACKING AREA RIVERS

Register for flood alerts with Thurston County and the U.S. Geological Survey at [www.tcalert.org](http://www.tcalert.org). Find river specific information at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management/river-flood-monitoring>. For more information about potential flood risks for specific river areas, visit the web pages below. Call 360-867-2800 if you need assistance.

### Nisqually River

NWS issues a flood warning when water levels could potentially reach 10 feet or higher. <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?12089500>

### Skookumchuck River

NWS issues a flood warning when water levels could potentially reach 211.5 feet. Moderate flooding occurs at 213 feet and major flooding results when water levels reach 215 feet. <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?12026400>

### Chehalis River

The Lower Chehalis maps include the Skookumchuck, Scatter Creek, and Lower Black River to Gate. <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?12027500>

### Deschutes River

NWS issues a flood warning when water levels could potentially reach 11 feet. Moderate flooding occurs when the height exceeds 13.5 feet. Deschutes River rises and falls at a faster rate than any other Thurston County river. <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?12079000>

Since 1962, Thurston County has been declared a federal disaster area 24 times - floods accounting for 17 of the declarations. Local flooding can be devastating, as seen during the December 2007 Chehalis River flooding in rural Rochester, and again in January 2022.

## FLOODPLAIN MAPPING

Floodplains are always changing. FEMA updates their digital flood insurance rate maps as data becomes available. Changes include topography, precipitation patterns, flow dynamics of rivers, and average temperature variations. The county has adopted FEMA's latest version. They can be viewed at [www.geodata.org](http://www.geodata.org) or [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Hardcopies can be viewed at the Building Development Center, 3000 Pacific Ave. SE, Suite 100, Olympia, WA 98501.

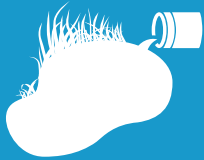
### Updates to Thurston County Maps

- Preliminary flood review for 40 lakes in Thurston County to be complete with maps available mid 2024.
- The Nisqually River remodel/remapping was completed in 2021 with maps available early 2023.



# PREVENT & PROTECT

## Keep your stormwater pond clear



- Remove weeds and trees from your stormwater pond.
- Remove cattails if they cover more than 20% of your pond.
- Clear litter, trees, and debris from pipes in your pond.

To learn more, visit [ThurstonStormwater.org](https://ThurstonStormwater.org).

## Keep ditches and waterways trash-free



Keeping drainage ditches clear helps reduce flooding. The county's Public Works staff monitors and clears ditches and culverts to help prevent flooding. Keep trash, yard debris, Christmas trees, and other material out of ditches and streams. (It is against the law: Article V of the Thurston County Sanitary Code).

## Keep storm drains clear



Leaves, fir tree needles, dirt, and trash can clog storm drains and cause flooding on roads. Make sure to sweep or blow grass clippings, dirt or other yard debris away from roads and storm drains. If your street floods, take a rake, get someone to be a safety lookout, and rake out the debris. Report clogged storm drains, roadside ditches or culverts to Thurston County Public Works at 360-867-2300 or visit <https://www.thurstoncountwa.gov/report-street-flooding>.

## STEPS TO TAKE AFTER A FLOOD

- RETURN HOME ONLY AFTER LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE SAID IT IS SAFE
- HAVE HOME AND UTILITIES CHECKED BEFORE RE-ENTRY
- FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em)
- DOCUMENT DAMAGE AND LOSSES BEFORE CLEAN-UP
- ENSURE HOME IS PROPERLY DRY
- DISCARD FRESH FOOD AND MEDICINE IF EXPOSED TO FLOOD WATERS

## PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FLOOD DAMAGE

The county regulates development in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This includes the FEMA flood zones, as well as flood of record and high ground water areas.



Prior to building, consider the following:

- Homes vulnerable to floods must include flood protection when built.
- There are restrictions on building new structures within the SFHA, including regulations on filling, tree-cutting, grading, & other development that may increase flood damage.
- County staff will conduct a site visit before you start your building application free of charge.

When requested, staff can visit your property to answer questions specific to your site, to discuss flooding, drainage, sewer backflow devices for flooding, and provide retrofitting advice. The county also has historical data regarding flooding in unincorporated Thurston County and can provide information on pre-flood and post-flood insurance, grants, loans, and other programs offered by federal, state, and local governments. Call Tim Rubert at 360-867-2123 for more information.

## UNDERSTAND CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS



Anchor and raise outdoor equipment, fuel tanks, air-conditioning units, and generators above flood level. Unanchored fuel tanks can break free and contaminate the ground. Never leave electrical power units and generators on the ground. These backup facilities will be inundated by water and become useless. County staff can assist you at no cost.



Elevate or relocate furnaces, water heaters, appliances, and electrical panels. Better yet, elevate your home above possible flood levels on a new foundation. Contact Emergency Management for possible assistance on applying for a grant to elevate your home.



Make openings in foundation walls to allow water to flow in and out. This can help prevent the walls from collapsing.



Install back-flow valves or plugs for drains, toilets, and other connections to prevent floodwaters from entering your home.



Store hazardous materials like paint, pesticides, and fertilizers inside plastic buckets off the floor. Take unwanted hazardous materials to the HazoHouse. Call (360) 867-2912 for hours and details. No latex paints are accepted.



Install sump pumps with their own backup power in crawl spaces or basements.

# PREVENT & PROTECT

## GET FLOOD INSURANCE TODAY!



Only after flood waters recede do many homeowners and renters discover the truth - *standard homeowners and renters insurance does not cover flood damage*. Just a few inches of water can cause thousands of dollars in home damage. Those without flood insurance are left holding steep bills.



If a property is no longer in the floodplain, the lender may not require flood insurance. But it's critical to keep flood insurance if the property has a history of flooding. Mortgage companies may require properties added to the floodplain to carry flood insurance.



FEMA aid is only available when the president declares a disaster. Not all floods are federally-declared disasters.

And federal aid is often given as a loan that must be paid back with interest.

Flood insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period before they take effect, so protect



yourself as soon as possible and get your flood insurance now.



Flood insurance is not just for homeowners. There are flood insurance policies for farms, commercial buildings, and policies that cover a home's contents for renters.



You can buy national flood insurance even if your home has flooded before.

It's the only dependable financial protection against flood damage.



The National Flood Insurance Program offers policy holders up to \$30,000 to help pay the costs of bringing a home or business into compliance with local flooding regulations. Called increased cost of compliance (ICC) coverage, this policy benefit is separate and in-addition to standard coverage that pays for home and property damage. ICC claims are adjusted separately from flood damage claims and can only be filed if the county determines a property has been substantially or repeatedly damaged by flood.



National Flood Insurance Program policies are sold through many private insurance companies. For rate information, contact an insurance agent.

**THURSTON COUNTY RESIDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO 40% OFF FLOOD INSURANCE!**

## KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK



Visit the county's GeoData website at [www.geodata.org](http://www.geodata.org) to research flood risk in specific areas or land parcels. Maps are not 100% accurate but provide information about flood zones, high groundwater areas, watersheds, and nearby water bodies. You can also call Tim Rubert at 360-867-2123.

FEMA's website at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) also provides flood maps, detailed information about flooding, and can estimate the cost of home damage at various flood levels.

## FIND INFORMATION ON RISK AND INSURANCE

- For National Flood Insurance information, including a list of providers, call 888-379-9531, or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).
- For FEMA-related questions, contact Kristin Minch, FEMA Region X, 206-438-2607.
- For information on the ICC policy benefit visit [www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/financial-help/increased-cost-compliance](http://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/financial-help/increased-cost-compliance).





# STAY INFORMED

## THURSTON COMMUNITY ALERT (TC ALERT)

### What is TC Alert?

Thurston County's primary alert and notification system for notifying citizens of emergencies or hazards.

### When is the system activated?

The system is activated when Emergency Management believes residents need a heightened level of warning to protect life or property. The alerts can be related to hazards requiring a type of action, such as boiling water or seeking shelter, or non-emergency notifications, such as extended police or fire activity.

### How does the system work?

Alerts can be sent via text message, phone call and email, depending on your preference; and can even be sent to social media. Emergency Management needs your address, preferred method of contact, and which type of alerts you'd like to receive.

### What are the systems limitations?

Several Caller ID features such as "anonymous call rejection" and "security screen" can interfere with receipt of emergency notifications. If you use any call screening services, contact Emergency Management for more information. These alerts are provided free-of-charge, however, standard text messaging rates and other charges may apply.

### When is the next scheduled TC Alert test?

Subscribers will receive a text or email between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. during the week of October 16– 20. You don't have to be home during the test. If you have questions, or if you're a subscriber and do not receive a text or email that week, please contact Emergency Management at 360-867-2800.

### To subscribe:

Visit [tcalert.org](https://tcalert.org) or text 67283 and indicate your preferred numbers for emergency notification.

While there, sign up for Smart911, a free service which allows you to input important information about your home, pets, and family members in the event that you need 9-1-1 assistance.

## STAY TUNED WITH A WEATHER RADIO

RECEIVE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE WEATHER ADVISORIES FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND NON-WEATHER EMERGENCY ALERTS AT ANY TIME. YOU CAN PURCHASE PRE-TUNED, BATTERY-POWERED WEATHER RADIOS FROM MOST ELECTRONIC STORES, STARTING AT ABOUT \$30.

TOP MODELS FEATURE SPECIFIC AREA MESSAGE ENCODING (SAME) TECHNOLOGY, WHICH CAN BE PROGRAMMED TO SOUND ALERTS FOR SELECTED CONDITIONS IN SELECTED AREAS.

### BROADCAST INFORMATION

FREQUENCY: 162.475 MHz

CHANNEL: 4

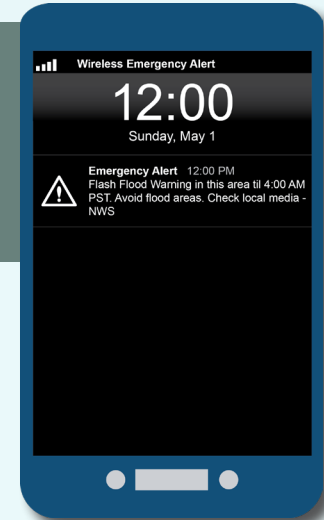
THURSTON COUNTY SAME CODE: 053067

## WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

### SEVERE WEATHER ALERT

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SENDS WARNINGS FOR TSUNAMIS, TORNADOES, FLASH FLOODS, EXTREME WINDS, BLIZZARDS, ICE STORMS, DUST STORMS, AND HURRICANES.

FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS ARE ISSUED WHEN FORECASTS INDICATE RIVERS MAY APPROACH FULL BANK LEVELS. LOCAL MEDIA, SUCH AS KGY RADIO 95.3 FM, KAYO/KYYO 96.9 FM, AND KAOS 89.3 FM WILL RE-BROADCAST THESE WARNINGS.



### Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)

WEAs are alert messages sent to mobile devices to notify you of imminent threats to safety, missing persons in the area, and dangerous weather. The service is free and automatic – you don't have to sign up or download an app. No matter where you are, if your cell is WEA-capable, you will get these wireless alerts.



*WEAs will automatically pop up on your screen—you don't have to unlock your phone to read them. Regardless of where you are, this service will send alerts appropriate to your real-time location.*

Get more information about Wireless Emergency Alerts on your cell phone at [www.tcalert.org](http://www.tcalert.org).

### Flood watch versus flood warning

- When a **flood watch** is issued, prepare for the possibility of a flood.
- When a **flood warning** is issued, flooding is imminent, generally within 12 hours, or it is occurring. Stay tuned to a local radio station for further information and be prepared to take quick action if needed.

### Flood information on the web

Visit the County's Emergency Management site at [www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em](http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em) for flood-related media advisories and links to National Weather Service warnings and USGS real-time river gage readings (see page 5 for local river information and links). You'll also find links to FEMA, the Washington State Emergency Management Division, the American Red Cross, and other disaster information sites.

### Chehalis Early-Warning System

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority installed an early-warning system for basin residents. The system provides real-time access to flooding data, information, and maps, as well as rain, stream, reservoir, wind, temperature, and other weather information. Access the site at: [chehalis.onerain.com](http://chehalis.onerain.com).



# BE PRE PARED

## MAKE A PLAN

Disasters can strike with little or no warning. That's why it is important to be prepared today for what might happen tomorrow.



### Stay in touch

In a disaster, the first thing many of us reach for is a phone. In the heat of the moment, we might not remember the numbers for our spouse's work or our children's school.

- List work, cell, and school phone numbers for each family member on a laminated emergency contact card to keep in your purse, wallet, or backpack.
- Remember to list secondary landline numbers.
- Include the number of an out-of-state friend or relative you can all use as a check-in contact.



### Evacuate safely

Create a floor plan of your home. Mark exits, utility shut-offs, and the location of disaster kits. Make sure household members know all safe exits. Share this information with babysitters and visitors.



### Pick a meeting place

Choose two locations for everyone to meet in case you are separated when disaster strikes. One place should be near your home. The second place should be away from your neighborhood, in case returning home is impossible.



### Protect your pets

Ensure your pet is prepared and protected.

- Keep their vaccinations up-to-date and their records handy.
- Have carriers large enough for your pets to stand and turn around
- Know where pets can go during a disaster - friend, family member, pet-friendly hotel, animal shelter, or boarding facility.
- Prepare out-of-state contact information on your pets' ID tags, microchip registrations and licenses.
- Include a go-kit of leashes, collars, extra ID tags, water, food, medications, health records, and photos to prove ownership.

## EVACUATION DO'S AND DON'T'S



Prepare a Go-Kit with essential items such as food, water, medications, a flashlight, a battery operated radio, and extra batteries.



Fill your gas tank.



Develop a get-away plan that includes at least two additional reliable sources of transportation-- a friend, relative, or other means.



Tell a friend or relative when you leave home and where you are going.



Take copies of important documents.



Don't walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.



Don't drive around road barriers. The road or bridge may be washed out!



Don't drive on flooded roads. "Turn around, don't drown!" Even if you can see the road under the water, don't drive on it! As little as 18 inches of water can float a small car. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it quickly and climb to higher ground.

## EVACUATING FARM ANIMALS



- Have transportation available and train animals to board vehicles.
- List neighbors within a 100-mile radius willing to board your animals if forced to evacuate.
- Identify local organizations prepared to rescue and house displaced livestock.
- Involve family and neighbors in making an evacuation plan for animals in barns and outlying buildings.
- Keep a supply of feed at a separate location that could be air-dropped if animals become stranded.
- Assemble leads, halters, species-specific first aid kits, quieting hoods for easy transport, and water.
- Keep photos of you with your pet and a copy of your ownership papers or brands with you at all times, in case you are separated from your animals.

# CHECKLISTS

## CAR



- ☐ Battery operated radio
- ☐ Flashlight, extra batteries
- ☐ Booster cables
- ☐ Boots & gloves
- ☐ Water (at least one quart)
- ☐ Rain gear and warm clothing
- ☐ High energy food (granola bars, raisins, etc.)
- ☐ Flares or bright cloth to attract attention if the car is stranded

## To-Go



- ☐ Rain gear, warm clothes
- ☐ Flashlight, extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit & medications
- ☐ Water (at least one quart)
- ☐ Extra set of house & car keys
- ☐ Emergency medical information
- ☐ High energy food (granola bars, raisins, etc.)

# CONTACT INFORMATION



## FIRE & POLICE

**911.** Call only for a life-threatening emergency. Call 360-704-2740 for local non-emergency inquiries.



## THURSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

360-867-2800



## THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

360-867-2300



## THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

360-867-2500



## THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING

360-867-2123



## HAZOHOUSE

360-867-2912



## NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE

888-379-9531



## STORMWATER POND INSPECTIONS

360-867-2095



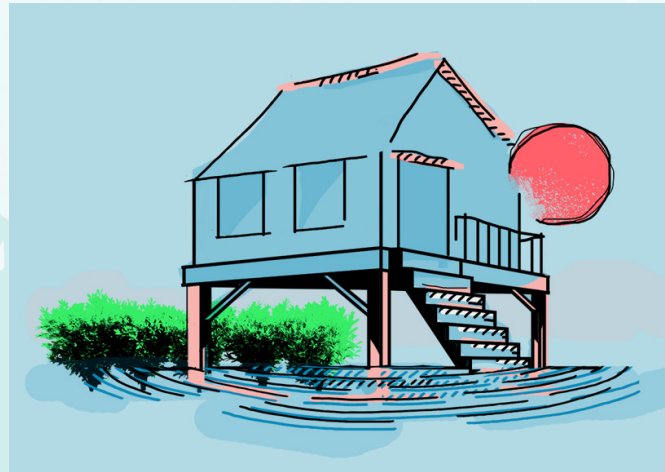
# FLOOD ELEVATION PROGRAM

## Flood Elevation Program

The Flood Elevation Program involves assisting property owners with the costs of raising the home above the flood elevation, substantially reducing the threat of future damage. This allows the residents to remain on the property and preserves existing local housing. Elevation projects are more appropriate in areas that experience slower moving floodwaters.

### Basic steps in elevating a building:

1. Professionals disconnect all utilities.
2. A licensed contractor is hired to disconnect the house from existing foundation, jack it up to new height, and provide a temporary foundation.
3. Temporarily reconnect the utilities so the house is livable while foundation work is done.
4. A temporary access staircase is built to meet the new height of the structure.
5. A new engineered foundation is constructed.
6. The licensed contractor lowers the house onto the new foundation.
7. Utilities are permanently reconnected.
8. A new, permanent access staircase and landing are built.



properties identified as part of a project in the Flood Hazard Management Plan, will be more likely to be given priority for available program and grant funds.

Thurston County maintains a list of property owners interested in participating in the program, so potential neighborhood projects are already identified when a funding opportunity becomes available. To put your name on the interest list, please complete the form on page 20.

### Did you know all properties in unincorporated Thurston County are eligible for flood insurance discount?

If you have property in unincorporated Thurston County, you may qualify for a discount on flood insurance. Thurston County is rated a Class 2 in FEMA's National Flood Insurance (NFIP) Community Rating System because the County's flood planning, flood reduction and flood education efforts exceed FEMA's minimum requirements. This rating provides a 40 percent discount on NFIP premiums for property in special flood hazard areas, and 10 percent discount for properties outside those areas in unincorporated parts of Thurston County. The rating was Class 4 until October 2016.

Only two other communities in Washington have this rating, Pierce and King counties.

Whether or not you are located in a mapped floodplain. Homeowners and renters insurance is available. You can get more information by:

- Calling your insurance agent for more information
- Visiting the National Flood Insurance Program's website, (external link) or
- Calling their toll-free number 1-888-336-2627.

For further information, visit <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/flood.aspx>

### How much does it cost and where does the money come from?

Elevations costs vary depending on the foundation. Thurston County has traditionally relied on federal and state grant opportunities to fund the program. A small amount is available annually across the State of Washington from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on a competitive basis. Additional funds become available after a presidential disaster declaration.

### Who is eligible to participate in the program?

In general, any structure located in a flood-prone area of Thurston County that carries flood insurance may be eligible for these programs. Structures covered by flood insurance with a history of repetitive flooding, and those



**THURSTON COUNTY  
FLOOD PRONE PROPERTY ELEVATION PROJECT  
Homeowner Voluntary Interest Form**

**How to apply for the program:**

In general, any structure located in a flood-prone area of Thurston County that carries Flood Insurance may be eligible for a Home Elevation. Structures covered by flood insurance with a history of repetitive flooding and those properties identified as part of a project in the Flood Hazard Management Plan will be more likely to be given priority for available program and grant funds.

Thurston County maintains a list of property owners interested in participating in the program, so that potential projects are already identified when a funding opportunity becomes available.

Please complete this form if you are interested in exploring your options for reducing your flood losses. Signing this does not commit you to any action. Once you have completed this form, please send or email to the contact listed at the bottom of this form.

Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

The local government is required by FEMA to inform you that your participation in this project for elevating your home is voluntary. Neither the *State* nor the *Local Government* will use its eminent domain authority to force you to elevate your home if you choose not to participate in a Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program, or if negotiations fail.

Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For further information please contact:  
Tim Rubert, Floodplain Manager  
Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development  
2000 Lakeridge Dr SW, Bldg. 1  
Olympia, WA 98502  
[Tim.Rubert@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:Tim.Rubert@co.thurston.wa.us)  
360-867-2123

Thurston County, Washington  
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/flood.aspx>

## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



## PREPARE TO PROTECT

Preparing for emergencies is protecting everyone you love

THURSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## PREPAREDNESS EXPO

**Saturday, September 23, 2023**

**10 AM TO 2 PM**

Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School  
237 Dennis St Tumwater, WA

Come learn how we protect you, and how you can prepare to protect yourself from emergencies.

Free activities for the whole family!

Community Emergency Response Team—Law Enforcement—Fire Department

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/em/Pages/prep-expo.aspx>



**THURSTON COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Bucoda • Confederate Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation • Lacey • Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Olympia • Rainier • Tenino • Thurston County • Tumwater • Yelm





THURSTON COUNTY

WASHINGTON

**THURSTON COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
9521 TILLEY RD. SW  
OLYMPIA, WA 98512**

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ON FLOOD  
PREVENTION**

visit

[www.co.thurston.wa.us/em](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em)

or call Tim Rubert at  
360-867-2123