

## VALLEY CENTER FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

The City's efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance. Here is how you can help:

1. Do not dump or throw anything into ditches or streams. Dumping in our ditches and streams is a violation of Valley Center City Nuisance Ordinance.
2. . A plugged channel cannot carry water and the debris will cause water to back up at some point in the waterway.
3. If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Assistance from the City may be available to help remove major blockages such as downed trees
4. If you see dumping or debris in ditches or streams, please contact the City Public Works Department at 316-755-7320 and report it.
5. Always check with the Community Development Department before you build on, alter, grade or fill your property. A permit is required for filling and grading in the City of Valley Center.

### PROPERTY PROTECTION

1. Building codes require new construction and substantial improvements of any structure to have the lowest floor, including the basement, elevated to at least two-feet above the 100-year flood elevation.
  2. With existing structures, equipment and materials should not be located or stored below the floodplain elevation.
  3. Non-residential buildings shall be constructed to either have the lowest floor, including the basement, elevated two-feet above the 100-year flood elevation or be flood-proofed so the structure is substantially impermeable to the passage of water to two-foot above the 100 year flood elevation.
  4. Structural components must be capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. A professional engineer or architect must certify the design and construction methods are in accordance with accepted standards of the floodplain ordinance.
  5. If your flooding problem is caused or aggravated by sewer backup, consider adding a sewer backup rider to your home-owners insurance policy.
  6. If your basement has had a flooding episode, and your furnace was damaged, consider replacing it with an elevated furnace one foot above flood level.
  7. There are several ways to protect a building from flood damage:
    - a. Keep water away from your home by building a small floodwall or earthen berm.
    - b. Make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways
    - c. Raise your house above flood levels if you are in the floodplain.
    - d. If there is the potential that the sewer backs up during heavy rains, a plug or standpipe can stop backup if the water doesn't get more than one or two feet deep. The mechanism can be purchase at a hardware store. For deeper sewer backup, talk to a plumber about overhead sewers or a backup valve
- Any alteration to your building or land may require a permit. Check with the Community Development Department at 316-755-7310 before making alterations.

### FLOOD INSURANCE

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1. If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies will not cover losses due to flooding. However, because Valley Center participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, flood insurance is available to everyone in the City.
2. For many people, their home and its contents represent their greatest investment. The City recommends that its homeowners and renters consider flood insurance to protect themselves from devastating losses due to flooding. Information about flood insurance can be obtained from an insurance agent. Homeowners or renters do not have to live in the floodplain to qualify for insurance. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents and renters can insure their possessions. Just because your residence has not flooded in the recent past does not mean you are safe from water damage or loss.
3. There is a thirty (30)-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect. A flood Insurance Rate Map Determination can be obtained from the Community Development Department at no charge by contacting 316-755-7310. Copies of FEMA Elevation Certificates on all buildings constructed after January 1, 2011 in the floodplain will be made available at the Community Development Office.

### **FLOOD SAFETY TIPS**

1. Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.
2. If you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
3. Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; Six inches of moving water is enough to knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.
4. Do not drive around road barriers or attempt to cross a flooding stream on foot or by car or drive through a flooded area. **TURN AROUND-DON'T DROWN.** Two feet of water will carry away most cars. One foot of water can displace 1,500 pounds of weight. If a car weighs less than 1,500 pounds it could be floated by a foot of water. If the water is moving rapidly, the car, truck, or SUV can be swept off the bridge or road into the creek or ditch. Water can erode the road bed, creating unsafe driving conditions. Underpasses can fill rapidly with water, while the adjacent roadway remains clear. Driving into a flooded underpass can quickly put you in five to six feet of water.
5. If your car stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
6. Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. Electrocution is the number two flood killer after drowning. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed lines to the Power Company or City Police Department.
7. Watch for animals and especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.
8. Look before you step. After a flood, the ground is covered with debris including broken glass and sharp objects just below the mud. Wet or muddy floors and steps can be very slippery.
9. Shut off utilities before hand. If you have time, have the Power Company turn off the power. Otherwise, make sure family members know how to shut off gas at the meter and power at the breaker box. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or

- motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.
10. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to check for damage. Soapy water on gas lines will reveal leaks as soap bubbles form. Don't use candles, lanterns, open flames, or smoke until the gas has been turned off and the area has been properly ventilated.
  11. Have an evacuation plan for yourself and family members. Choose a route and a meeting place.
  12. Prepare an emergency kit in a portable container. Make it small enough to grab quickly and go. Suggested items for such a kit include portable radio, flashlight, spare batteries, spare car keys, spare pair of glasses, prescription medication, nonperishable food items, bottled water, first aid kit, blanket, list of important numbers, and copies of important papers.
  13. Know the flood warning alarms and procedures.
  14. During times of heavy rainfall, monitor the level of water in drainage ways. Stay tuned to radio or TV for possible flood warnings.
  15. Evacuate flood hazard areas in times of impending floods or when advised.
  16. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
  17. Be cautious at night

### LOCAL CONTACTS

Organization	Name	Day Phone	Night Phone	Email
City Police Dept.	Public Safety Building	911-Emergency 316-755-7304	911-Emergency 316-755-7300	<a href="mailto:policechief@valleycenterks.org">policechief@valleycenterks.org</a>
City Fire Dept.	Public Safety Building	911-Emergency 316-755-7303	911-Emergency 316-755-7300	<a href="mailto:Firechief@valleycenterks.org">Firechief@valleycenterks.org</a>
City Public Works	City Garage	316-755-7320	316-655-7320	<a href="mailto:publicworks@valleycenterks.org">publicworks@valleycenterks.org</a>
Local Newspaper	Ark News	316-755-0821	316-519-3952	<a href="mailto:news@arkvalleynews.com">news@arkvalleynews.com</a>
Public Schools	VC School District	316-755-7100		<a href="http://usd262.net/">usd262.net/</a>
Radio	KFDI-101.3 FM	316-436-1013-		<a href="http://Kfdi.com">Kfdi.com</a>
Radio	KNSS-1330 AM	316-436-1330		<a href="http://knssradio.com">knssradio.com</a>
Television	KWCH TV 12	316-838-1212		<a href="http://kwch.com">kwch.com</a>

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