



**CITY OF SNOQUALMIE**

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## City of Snoqualmie

### News Release

For immediate release: September 11, 2017

## Recent Hurricanes Are a Reminder for Flood Preparedness

**Snoqualmie, WA** – The recent devastation wrought by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma is a reminder of the serious impact and dangers of flooding.

Most areas of downtown Snoqualmie lie within the floodplain of the Snoqualmie River and are subject to occasional flooding. The worst flood in the city's known history was in November 1990, an event debated as a 50-70-year flood. The City experienced a major flood most recently in January 2009.

Because we cannot predict when the next flood event will occur, it's important to stay prepared. Please read the City of Snoqualmie [Annual Flood Report for 2017/2018](#).

### Our Local Flood Hazard

Snoqualmie's local flood hazard is rooted at the main stem and the south fork of the Snoqualmie River, and from Kimball Creek. The combination of high annual precipitation and melting snow in the upper Snoqualmie River basin contributes to the potential for significant fall and winter flooding. Because rivers, which carry runoff out of the basin, are located in steep valleys, floodwaters collect on the flat valley floor where Snoqualmie is located. Keep informed about [flood warnings and alerts](#). You can also download the [King County Flood Warning App](#).

### Before a Flood - Emergency Preparedness and Safety

Here are ways you can prepare before a flood:

- Learn the safest route from your home.
- Keep a battery-powered AM radio and flashlights in working order with extra batteries.
- Have emergency water, food, and medications stored – more information on [emergency kits](#).
- Install check valves in sewer traps to prevent flood water and sewer backup.

- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and other materials on hand to protect property. Avoid placing sandbags directly against an outer wall of a building; when wet, the bags create added pressure on the structure.
- Sign up for the [Snoqualmie Emergency Alert System](#).
- Purchase flood insurance.

## **Storm Drainage Maintenance**

Storm drains help to quickly move water out of town - you can help by keeping the entrance of storm drains clear of debris. Grass clippings, leaves, branches, and trash can accumulate and plug storm drains and channels, contributing to flooding. Please do not dump or throw anything in the drainage ways and streams. If you see dumping or debris, please contact the Public Works Division at 425-831-4919.

## **About Flood Insurance**

One of the most important things you can do to protect your home and family before a flood is to purchase a flood insurance policy. It usually takes 30 days after the purchase of a flood insurance policy for it to go into effect. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Snoqualmie participates in the [National Flood Insurance Program](#), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance representative, or call the National Flood Insurance Program toll free at 1-888-379-9531.

## **Sign Up for Snoqualmie's Emergency Alert System**

The City of Snoqualmie is a member of the [ALERT King County](#) emergency system, which will notify Snoqualmie subscribers about emergencies in our area via phone, text, and email. Alerts would be sent for events such as flooding, evacuations, major road closures, and boil water notices.

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