

Flood Bulletin 2015



Dear Neighbor,

On behalf of the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners, I'd like to offer you, the citizens and businesses of Lewis County, this 2015 Flood Bulletin.

The geography that defines Lewis County provides us with a very special place we call home. This same geography also helps contribute to the flooding conditions we often face. Every year, flooding risk is a possibility for low-lying areas. Not always to the level of the 2006 Cowlitz River or the 2007 Chehalis River floods of record, but the reality is that our lives can be effected by river flooding.

The best way to minimize the effects of flooding is to become aware of the risks, make a plan, and be prepared to put that plan into action before the emergency level is reached. Awareness and preparedness go hand-in-hand.

Please take a moment to acquaint yourself with the resources and information in this brochure. Take steps **now** to plan to protect your families, homes, businesses, and neighborhoods.

Edna J. Fund

Edna J. Fund, Chair, District 1, Lewis County Board of Commissioners
Bill Schulte, District 2
Gary Stamper, District 3



If you've received this bulletin in the mail, it's because you have property in the 100-year floodplain, or a "flood-of-record" area.

This Flood Bulletin contains information on flood risks in Lewis County and disaster preparedness for your home, vehicle and family.

Our community is stronger when you care for yourself and your family by preparing before the disaster.

It is not possible for first responders to provide immediate assistance to all those affected by storms and flooding. The demand often exceeds available resources. Sometimes it is days before outside help arrives. Become self-sufficient by educating yourself, making a plan, building kits and involving your family and neighbors in your preparations.

What is CodeRED?

The CodeRED system provides officials in Lewis County the ability to quickly deliver an alert message to give citizens advanced warning information on impending emergencies, or if evacuation is necessary.

Alerts are FREE
and no solicitors will call

CodeRED can communicate time-sensitive, personalized messages via voice, E-mail and text.

Who Should Sign up?

All businesses should register, as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cellular phone or VoIP phone as their primary number.

How to Subscribe:

Individuals and businesses can log onto the Lewis County website at: www.lewiscountywa.gov

Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address must be inside Lewis county, no P.O. boxes), city state, zip code, and primary phone number, additional phone numbers can be entered as well. If using a cell phone, indicate who your carrier is (example: AT&T, Sprint etc.).

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ALERT !! ALERT !! Connections for Alert Messages . . .



Cell Phones Emergency Alerts (WEA) . . .

Wireless phone providers are carrying Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA, also known as the Commercial Mobile Alert System), a new nationwide text system, which can warn you when weather threatens. The service is free and automatic – you don't have to sign up or download an app. As long as your cell phone is WEA-capable, you'll get wireless alerts for the most dangerous types of weather from NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) no matter where you are.

NWS will send warnings for tsunamis, tornadoes, flash floods, extreme wind, blizzards, ice storms, dust storms or hurricanes. AMBER alerts are also transmitted over WEA, and the system can broadcast Presidential messages.

- **How it works:** If you're in an area where a weather warning has been issued, your cell phone will pick up the alert sent by nearby cell towers, broadcasting the message much like a radio station. WEA-capable cell phones within range will immediately pick up the signal. When our phone receives a message, it will alert you with unique ring tone and vibration.

The message will automatically pop up on your screen; you won't have to open it to read it. Regardless of where you are, this service will send alerts appropriate to your real-time location. For example: You live in Washington, but if you take your WEA-capable phone on a trip to Florida and a hurricane warning is issued. You'll receive an "Imminent Threat Alert" on your phone for the area in Florida where you're visiting.

Get more information about Wireless Emergency Alerts on your cell phone at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weahterreadynation/wea.html>.



Telephone Alert System --- CodeRED . . .

Lewis County officials request a **CodeRED** activation when a level of warning beyond that provided by the National Weather Service and the media is needed to urge residents to take **immediate** action to protect life or property.

- **How it works**
A brief message is recorded and a call is placed to the subscribers. When you pick up your phone, the system plays the message. If you have an answering machine, the system waits for a prompting tone and plays the message for the recorder.
- **What if there's no answer?**
The system will retry the number several times, if necessary.
- **How to subscribe**
Register on-line at the County website: www.lewiscountywa.gov, scroll down to "Code RED Emergency Alerts". For those without Internet access or with questions, call 360-740-1464.
- **Important Notice: Alert system Limitations**
 - Several Caller ID features such as "anonymous call rejection" and "security screen" can interfere with receipt of emergency notification. If you use any call screening services, contact 360-740-1464 for more information.

NOAA Weather Radio – Another Alert Tool

Weather Radios are an important preparedness tool for homes, businesses, government offices and schools.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts the latest area weather forecasts on the public service band. These frequencies are not found on a typical home radio. Weather radios can be purchased at local electronics supply stores, starting at about \$30 for special radio receivers capable of picking up the signal.

These radio frequencies operating 24-hours a day (the only federally designed 24-hour warning system available to the public). The specially designed NOAA weather radio is always on guard to alert citizens, even in the middle of the night, to emergencies and weather conditions in the immediate area.

It is an “all Hazards” warning system used for immediate flood and weather related events, chemical hazards, terrorism, AMBER child abduction alerts, and other incidents that could be a risk to citizens.

Weather Radios are available both with and without a warning alarm feature. They can be programmed to alarm only the warning messages you want. It is **strongly recommended** citizens have a radio with Emergency Alert System (EAS) capability (also known as **SAME** – Specific Area Message Encoder). **Look for these features.**



Lewis County SAME Code: 053041

Frequency: 162.475 for most of Lewis County

Upper Cowlitz Valley (**Morton and beyond**) also try **162.425**

Flood Insurance

It's only after the flood waters recede that many homeowners and renters find out the truth – standard homeowners and renters insurance **doesn't cover flood damage**. Just a few inches of water can cause thousands of dollars in damage to your home and those without flood insurance are often left financially devastated.

National flood insurance is the only dependable form of financial protection against flood damage.

Did you know?

- **FEMA aid money is only available when the President declares a disaster.** Not all floods, even those causing thousands of dollars in damage, are federally declared disasters. Also, federal aid is often given as a loan that you must pay back with interest.
- **Yes: You can buy national flood insurance even if your home has flooded before.**
- **Flood insurance is not just for homeowners.** There are flood insurance policies for farms and commercial buildings, and policies that cover a home's contents for renters.
- **Flood insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period** before they take effect, so get your flood insurance now.



National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies are sold through many private insurance companies.

***To find an insurance provider near you,
call the NFIP at 1-800-611-6122.***

Also, visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information.

Unincorporated Lewis County . . . now rated by the NFIP a **Class 6 community. Homeowners receive up to **20% off Flood Insurance Premiums**. Flood **mitigation and preparedness** actions since 2013 have **qualified Lewis County residents** for an **additional 5% discount** on **flood insurance**.**

Research Before You Buy: Real Estate Tips & Tools

Buying property? A little research can potentially save money and heartache.

A great way to start is to visit Lewis County's website at: www.lewiscountywa.gov. Select "GIS Maps", then "Interactive Maps", and finally "Launch FEMA Webmap". While maps aren't 100 percent accurate for every parcel, they do provide a wealth of data about flood zones, high groundwater areas, watersheds and nearby water bodies.

Another good source of flood information is FEMA's website, www.floodsmart.gov. You can view flood maps, get detailed information about flooding, and even estimate the cost of damage to your home at various flood levels.

Get the Know-How: Building & Construction

The County regulates floodplain development to protect the public and minimize flood losses. Homes that are vulnerable to floods are required to have flood protection when built. Construction within the 100-year floodplain has restrictions. There are regulations that control filling, tree-cutting, grading and other development that may increase flood damage.

Information on development affecting individual lots in floodplains is available at the Community Development Office.

Staff is available to answer questions specific to your site. The County also has some historical data regarding flooding in unincorporated Lewis County. Call the Lewis County Permit Center at 360-740-1146.

6 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

- 1 **Elevate or relocate** furnaces, water heaters, appliances and electrical panels. Better yet, elevate your home above possible flood levels on a new foundation.
- 2 **Install back-flow valves or plugs** for drains, toilets and other connections to prevent flood waters from entering your home.
- 3 **Make openings** in foundation walls to allow water to flow in and out. This can help prevent collapse of the walls.
- 4 **Build and install flood shields** for doors and other openings to prevent the entrance of floodwaters.
- 5 **Store hazardous materials** like paint, pesticides and fertilizers inside plastic buckets off the floor. Take unwanted hazardous materials to the Hazo Hut, 1411 S. Tower, Centralia, WA 98531, 9-4:00 every Wednesday, and 1st & 3rd Saturdays, or by appointment. Details: Solid Waste (360) 740-1221 or 740-1481.
- 6 **Install sump pumps** with backup power in crawl spaces or basements.

Building or regulation questions?

Call Lewis County Community Development Department, (360) 740-1146.

Floodplains – Nature’s Flood Fighters

Floodplain lands and adjacent waters combine to form a complex, dynamic physical and biological system found nowhere else.

When portions of floodplains are preserved in their natural state (or restored to), they provide many benefits to both human and natural systems.

These benefits range from providing aesthetic pleasure to reducing the number and severity of floods, helping handle stormwater runoff and minimizing the potential of pollution traveling downstream. For example, by allowing floodwater to slow down, sediments settle out, thus maintaining water quality. The natural vegetation filters out impurities and uses excess nutrients.



Natural resources of floodplains fall into 3 categories:

1 Natural flood and erosion control – Over the centuries, floodplains develop their own ways to handle flooding and erosion with natural features that provide floodwater storage and conveyance, reduce flood velocities and flood peaks, and curb sedimentation.

2 Biologic resources and functions – Floodplains enhance biological productivity by supporting a high rate of plant growth. This helps to maintain biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems.

3 Societal resources and functions – People benefit from floodplains through the food they provide, the recreational opportunities they afford and the scientific knowledge gained in studying them. By transforming floodplains from problem areas into value-added assets, the community can improve its quality of life. 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.

Floodplain Mapping

Lewis County has adopted the 1981 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, with Study Revisions. The maps are accessible at www.floodsmart.gov and can be viewed in hardcopy form at the Lewis County Permit Center at the Public Services Building, 2025 NE Kresky Avenue, Chehalis, WA.

Flow dynamics of rivers and climate change indicate floodplains are a constantly changing feature. The FEMA maps will be revised as more topographic data is gathered, plus other data changes like precipitation patterns, flow dynamics of rivers and climate alterations are documented.

If your property was removed from the floodplain, you may no longer be required by your lender to carry flood insurance. ***But, it's critical to keep flood insurance if your property has a history of flooding.*** Properties added to the floodplain may be required by their mortgage company to acquire flood insurance.

Contact your insurance agent for rate information. If you need additional help, contact Deborah Farmer at FEMA Region X, (425) 487-2023. For more local information, call Doyle Sanford, CFM, Lewis County Floodplain Manager, at (360) 740-2696.

Increased Cost of Compliance Program – Grants available to private property owners



Do you have flood insurance?

Have you received flood damage and now need to meet certain requirements before you can repair or rebuild?

Policy holders in high risk areas can qualify for **up to \$30,000** to help pay the costs of bringing their home or business into compliance with local floodplain regulations.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) includes Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage for standard flood insurance policies.



Complete details are available at:
www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/ICC.shtm
or call Doyle Sanford, CFM, (360) 740-2696.

Understanding Flooding

Since 1990 (25 years), Lewis County has been included in 16 Presidentially Declared Disasters and 12 of those were caused by flooding. Additionally, there were 22 local events with 15 of those caused by flooding. Simply put, ***flooding occurred in 71% of the Lewis County natural disasters in the past 25 years*** and is a good reason to buy and keep flood insurance current.



The 2006 East Lewis County flood caused \$26.6 million in public/private damages (164 homes affected) and two deaths. Preliminary damage estimates for the record 2007 West Lewis County flood was \$166 million (over 3,000 homes impacted).

These events translate to years of financial losses to businesses, transportation systems, tax revenue and public and private structures.

Wide spread flooding in Lewis County occurs when there is just too much water in too short a time for the streams and river banks to hold and absorb it.

The magnitude of flooding depends on intensity and duration combinations of several factors including: rainfall amount, pre-existing river and existing soil conditions (was the ground wet or frozen before the storm) size of the area, elevation of a basin and sometimes the amount of snowpack.

Man-made changes to a basin also can affect the sizes of floods. Although floods can happen at any time during the year, there are some typical seasonal patterns for flooding in Lewis County. Fall and early winter floods are produced by heavy rainfall on wet or frozen ground. Winter and early spring floods typically are caused by rainfall and a melting snowpack. "Urban" flooding is increasing as we convert more forest land to lawns, lots and impervious surfaces. Retention capacity decreases and runoff increases.

There are five major river systems that contribute to flooding conditions in Lewis County. The Cowlitz and Nisqually Rivers in Eastern Lewis County and the Chehalis, Newaukum and Skookumchuck in Western Lewis County. China Creek also has had a dramatic impact in the Centralia area.

A flood stage on one river does not always mean there will be widespread flooding in that area. With river readings from several gages and the historical documentation from past flooding events, we can produce some very accurate short term projections. The following river reading links are provided to help you stay up-to-date and informed on the major river systems, their current conditions and flood stages that may affect your area.

Tracking Area Rivers



Lewis County's website, rivers.lewiscountywa.gov, provides citizens with up-to-date information on the current status of 8 primary rivers and 9 tributaries. This information can also be accessed directly from USGS at the following sites:



Chehalis at Doty – the National Weather Services (NWS) issues a flood warning when its forecast model indicates a stage of 13.0 feet. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=12020000



Chehalis at Mellen Centralia – NWS flood warning: forecasted river stage of 65 feet. Major floods occurs at 73.4 feet. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=12025500



Skookumchuck at Centralia -- NWS flood warning: forecasted river stage of 85 feet. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=12026600



Newaukum near Chehalis – NWS flood warning: forecasted flood warning is 10.5 feet. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=12025000



Cowlitz at Packwood – NWS flood warning: forecasted flood warning is 10.5 feet. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=14226500



Cowlitz at Randle – NWS flood warning: forecasted flood warning is 18 feet. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=14231000



Mineral Creek at Mineral – NWS has not established a flood stage for this station. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=12083000



Nisqually at National – NWS flood stage for this station is 8,000 cfs. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa.nwis/uv/?site_no=12082500

3 Ways to Help Prevent Neighborhood Flooding

Ditches, Storm Drains

It is against the law to dump trash, Christmas trees, tires or other materials into streams, ditches or other waterways.

1 Keep stormwater drains clean

During heavy rains, leaves, fir tree needles, dirt and trash are quickly swept into storm drains, often clogging them and causing local flooding. You can help by taking preventive measures.

Never sweep or hose material such as beauty bark into the street or gutter. If flooding occurs in your neighborhood's streets during heavy rain, drag a rake and safely clear the drain of clogging debris. If you know of a clogged roadside ditch or culvert in your area, please report it to Lewis County Roads Maintenance at (360) 740-1122.

2 Keep drainage ditches trash-free

Good drainage helps reduce flooding. The Lewis County Public Works Department monitors and clears public road right-of ways throughout the year, with a special emphasis on problem areas. Private roads and ditches are the property owner's responsibility.

3 Maintain stormwater ponds

Ponds collect and filter runoff and temporarily hold large amounts of water during storms. All Lewis County stormwater ponds are on private property; therefore, the citizen's responsibility to keep clean. Is there a retention pond in your neighborhood?

Perform vegetation management regularly to keep weeds and trees from overtaking the pond area, which leads to reduced capacity and clogging of inlet and outlet pipes. Branches, yard waste and litter can also clog pipes.

If done regularly, most vegetation maintenance requires little expertise and

minimal equipment. However, if you have a large pond or one requiring extra attention, you may need more skilled labor and equipment. If your neighborhood has stormwater catch basins, regularly inspect inlets to ensure debris is not blocking water flow.

WEB TOOLS TO ACCESS FOR FLOOD WARNING INFORMATION



The National Weather Service (NWS) issues watches and warnings when forecasts indicate rivers may approach full bank levels. Local radio stations such as KELA 1470 AM / KMNT 104.3 FM, KITI 1420 AM / LIVE95 95.1 FM, KCED 90.1, KACS 90.5 FM, and KNBQ 102.9 FM broadcast NWS warnings.

Flood Watch vs. Flood Warning

When a **watch** is issued, prepare for the possibility of a flood. A **Warning** means a flood is about to occur or is already occurring. When a **warning** is issued, stay tuned to a local radio station for further information and be prepared to take quick action if needed.

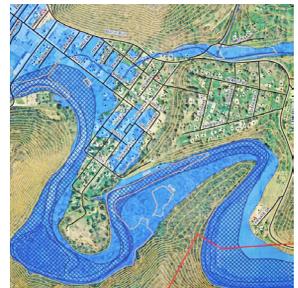


Flood Information on the Web

Check the Emergency Management site at www.Lewiscountywa.gov/em for flood-related media advisories and links to NWS warnings and USGS real-time river gage readings. You'll also find links to FEMA, the Wessington State Emergency Management Division, the American Red Cross and other disaster information sites.

Need a Regional Picture of Flood Conditions Surrounding Lewis County?

Visit the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority resource page at <https://chehalis.onerain.com/home.php>. This site supports a variety of real time access to flooding data, information and maps, as well as rain, stream, reservoir, wind, temperatures and other weather information regarding the entire Chehalis River Basin counties.



Want to Get Connected? **Receive Weather Alerts Currently in Effect . . .**



Go to: www.lewiscountywa.gov, click "Weather Alerts" box, on left side of Alerts screen, click "Sign up for E-Mail Alerts". This link to the NWS allows you to **sign up** for E-mail and SMS weather alert services from **52 alternative sources**. You can receive weather alerts by **E-mail, text, phone, and mobile devices**.



Want **Chehalis Basin-wide** Information?

Visit **Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority** at:
www.chehalisriverflood.com

This website provides basin-wide information that the public can access and follow events as they unfold. The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority is a multiple county entity (Lewis, Thurston and Grays Harbor). The Flood Authority:

- Provides flood hazard reduction leadership and programs in the Chehalis Basin
- Meets monthly to set and implement strategic actions
- Identifies and funds local projects (infrastructure, agriculture, foundation flood venting and more)

Chehalis Basin River Gage Email Alerts -- Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System (www.chehalisriverflood.com) has the capability to send email alerts to anyone interested in receiving notification about significant rising river levels from any of the following river gages:



1. Chehalis River near Pe Ell --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=cplw1>
2. Chehalis River near Doty --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=dotw1>
3. Newaukum River near Chehalis --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=neww1>
4. Chehalis River at Centralia --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=cenw1>
5. Skookumchuck River at Centralia --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=ctaw1>
6. Skookumchuck River near Bucoda --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=bcdw1>
7. Chehalis River at Grand Mound --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=cgmw1>
8. Chehalis River at Porter --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=crpw1>
9. Satsop River near Satsop --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=satw1>
10. Wynoochee River near Montesano --
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=mnsw1>

To sign-up to receive email alerts please send the following information to both scottb@sbgh-partners.com and dcurtis@westconsultants.com: Your name, your email & the river gage number(s) above you are interested in.

GOT A PLAN ?

Earthquakes, floods, windstorms, and other disasters can strike with little or no warning. That's why we have 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. During emergencies, local service is quickly overwhelmed with thousands of calls. In the heat of the moment, we might not remember the numbers for our spouse's work or our children's school. It is important to prepare a contact list in advance of the emergency.

- 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 your disaster kits. Make sure house-hold members know all safe exits. Share this information with babysitters and other visitors.

Where Do We Meet? Choose locations for your family to meet in case you are apart when disaster strikes. One place should be near your home. A back-up meeting place should be away from your neighborhood in case returning to your home is impossible.

Evacuation: Dos

- **Do** prepare a “Grab-and-Go” Kit
- **Do** keep your gas tank FULL
- **Do** keep some cash on hand – ATMs don't work when the power is out
- **Do** take copies of important documents
- **Do** develop an **exit strategy** that includes at least two additional reliable sources of transportation – a friend, relative or other means
- **Do** tell a friend or relative when you leave home and where you are going
- **Do** obey all traffic barriers. **Do Not** drive around them. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it quickly and climb to higher ground.



Evacuation: Don'ts

- **Don't walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the #1 cause of flood deaths. You can be knocked off your feet with 6 inches of moving water.
- **Don't drive on flooded roads.** The road under the water may be gone or crumble under the weight of your car. As little as 18 inches of swiftly moving water can float a small car.
- **Don't drive around road barrier.** The road or bridge may be washed out!

WHO DEPENDS ON YOU?

Your Pets and Livestock do! Include them in Preparedness Plans.



The best way to protect your household from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them too. If it's not safe for you to stay behind, then it's not safe to leave pets behind either.

In the event you MUST leave them behind, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) recommends using a rescue sticker alert to let people know that pets are inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers, and that it includes the types and number of pets and your veterinarian's phone number.

Preparations for Pets

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

Evacuating Livestock

- Have transportation available. Train animals to board vehicles.
- Make a list of neighbors within a 100-mile radius of your home who would be willing to board your animals if you're forced to evacuate.
- Know 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.
- Have a copy of ownership papers or brands with you at all times in case you are separated from your animals.

Under – the – Bed – Safety Kit

Keep these basic response supplies under the bed. That way, day or night, you'll know where to go to get the essentials:

- Sturdy shoes and socks (you may have broken glass, or need to walk a long way to safety)
- Leather gloves to protect hands from broken glass
- Hardhat to prevent head injuries from falling objects
- Flashlight and light sticks – Don't be caught in the dark?



Grab – And – Go Kit - When a disaster strikes, you may have leave your home quickly. Gather the items listed below and place in an easy to take container such as a backpack. Locate the kit as close to your primary house exit as possible. You may have to find it in the dark or after the upheaval of an earthquake.

- Rain gear, warm clothes
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- First aid kit & medications
- Water (at least one quart)
- Extra set of house and car keys
- Emergency medical Information
- High energy food (granola bars, raisins, etc.)
- Extra eyeglasses
- Personal ID, cash
- Financial papers, Insurance
- Battery operated radio
- Hygiene kit
- Emergency phone number list



Car Kit - When a disaster strikes, you may be away from home or forced to leave your home. Keeping an emergency supply kit in your vehicle can help you through any emergency.

- Battery operated radio
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- Booster cables
- Boots & gloves
- Rain gear
- Flares
- Shovel
- Blanket
- Bottled water
- High energy food (granola bars, raisins, etc.)
- Bright cloth to tie to the antenna as an alert if car is stranded

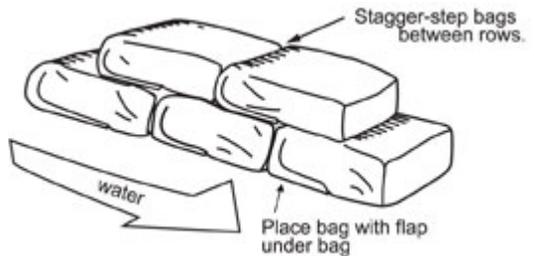


Sandbagging Techniques

Using sandbags is a simple but effective method of preventing or reducing damage from flood or debris. Properly filled and placed sandbags can act as a barrier to divert moving water around, instead of through a building.

Bags are made from various materials, but the most common is woven polypropylene, and measure approximately 14 inches wide and 24-26 inches long. Other sizes are available, but bags are easier to handle if their weight after filling is limited to 35 to 40 pounds.

Sand is the easiest material for filling and shaping sandbags but gravel or soil can be used. The bags should be filled about one-half full, folded under and placed so water flowing down-stream would push sand against the bottom of the bag. If you tie a bag off for easy handling, tie toward the top to permit the sand to move easily in the bag to create a flood barrier.



Sandbags stacked in a single row work well to build a short barrier where there is no streamflow velocity or danger from floating debris. Place sandbags tightly against one another parallel to the stream flow. Stagger the second and subsequent layers of bags much like the pattern of a brick wall.

When authorized by the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners, Lewis County Emergency Management and Public Works supply many local fire stations with sand and sandbags during the flood season for the protection of public infrastructure. Sandbags are also available at various retail outlets. For more information on sandbagging, as well as locations where bags are available, visit www.lewiscountywa.gov.



OCTOBER IS NOAA WEATHER RADIO MONTH

Join all of Lewis County in practicing the earthquake **Drop, Cover, Hold** Drill the 3rd Thursday in October. Local radio and EAS will announce the drill

The annual **CodeRED** Telephone **Alert Test** will also be conducted at this time.



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS & WEBSITES

Clip & Save

Fire/Police/Sheriff: Call 9-1-1 **only** for life threatening emergencies.

General business numbers can be found in the Community Service pages of the phonebook.

National Flood Insurance: 1-800-611-6122

Utilities:

Centralia City Light: 360-330-7512

Trouble calls after 3:30, plus Sat-Sun-Holiday 360-736-7040

Lewis County PUD # 1: 360-748-9261

Lewis County PUD – Morton: 360-496-6100

PacificCorp Energy: 360-748-1300

Puget Sound Energy (both gas and electric service): 425-452-1234

Lewis County Resources and Departments:

Lewis County Community Development (360) 740-1146

Building Official – Doyle Sanford, CFM, (360) 740-2696

Lewis County Department of Emergency Management (360) 740-1151

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services (360) 740-1223

Solid & Hazardous Waste, Code Compliance (360) 740-2718

Water Program (360) 740-1237 or 740-2691

Lewis County Roads Maintenance at (360) 740-1122

Lewis County Solid Waste and Hazo Hut (360) 740-1221 or 740-1481

Websites:

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, Scott Boettcher (360) 480-6600:

scottb@sbgh-partners.com; www.chehalisriverflood.com

Lewis County: www.lewiscountywa.gov

Lewis County Department of Emergency Management: www.lewiscountywa.gov/em

Lewis County River Readings Webpage: www.lewiscountywa.gov/rivers

Lewis County Road Conditions:

www.lewiscountywa.gov/publicworks-roads-conditions

National Flood Insurance Program & Maps: www.floodsmart.gov

Are You Ready? Do You Care?

The question always arises; why prepare; why take the time energy and extra effort to prepare for something that is unpleasant to think about and most people feel will never happen to them? Simply put; we should prepare because we care, because other people often depend upon us and because it's a responsible way to be self-sufficient and independent. In short, it makes good sense and will make a positive difference when disaster does strike.



During my 31 years in public service, I have seen countless situations where a very basic knowledge, understanding and proper preparation would have made the difference between life and death.

Preparing for any kind of emergency or disaster takes commitment and effort. I would hope the information contained in this brochure will encourage more people to analyze what their risks are and the simple things they can do in developing a plan and preparing to help minimize those risks.

Knowing your hazards, vulnerabilities and risk are the first steps in developing your plan and protecting your family and loved ones.

Natural disasters can and do happen in Lewis County. Protect those who count on you! Purchase flood insurance, have a plan and prepare before the disaster happens.



Steve Mansfield
(Retired Sheriff)
Lewis County Emergency Management

East Lewis County, 2006.