

## **CITY OF HOLBROOK FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION**

The City of Holbrook is subject to flood damages from three sources: the Little Colorado River; flows from smaller tributaries to the north and east of town; and, from excessive run-off onto the City's streets. The flood hazard areas of the City are subject to periodic inundation which can result in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare. Flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in areas of special flood hazards that increase flood heights and velocity, and when inadequately anchored, damage uses in other areas. Uses that are inadequately floodproofed, elevated or otherwise protected from flood damage, also contribute to the flood loss.

### **GENERAL FLOOD INFORMATION**

One of the first things everyone is encouraged to do is to check your flood hazard by gathering information concerning flood hazards and flood protection in your area. Information can be obtained at the library or at City Hall. As a public service, City staff will visit your property to review potential flood hazards and explain possible ways to prevent flood damage.

The City's efforts to limit flood damage and to protect the people and businesses of Holbrook, depends on your cooperation and assistance. Here are ways that you can help:

- \*Do not dump or throw anything into ditches or streams. Not only is dumping into the ditches or streams a violation of the Holbrook City Code, but every piece of trash or material contributes to a potential flood problem as an obstructed channel or ditch cannot adequately carry water when it rains.

- \*If you are located next to a ditch or stream, please do your part, and keep the banks clear of brush and debris to allow water to move freely. The City has a channel drainage maintenance program that can help remove blockages such as weeds, downed trees, and other debris.

- \*If you see dumping or debris in the ditches or drainage channels, contact City Hall at 928-524-6225.

- \*Check with the Building Department before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that the project complies with the required regulations and that it does not cause any drainage problems.

- \*Obtain additional information. There is information available on floodproofing, flood insurance, and flood safety. The Holbrook City Library has several books on design guidelines, residential repair, floodproofing and elevating structures.

### **FLOOD INSURANCE**

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Because the City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, however, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded.

Some people have purchased flood insurance because the bank required it when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually, these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During many floods, there is more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. If you're insured, you should check out the amount and make sure it also covers the cost of your contents.

## FLOOD SAFETY INFORMATION

**Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive as moving water of even 6” can knock you off your feet. If you must walk in water, walk where the water is not moving, and walk using a pole or stick to reach ahead of you to check the firmness of the ground.

**Do not drive into a flooded area.** More people die in their vehicles in a flood than anywhere else. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars and can cause loss of control and possible stalling. If floodwaters rise around your car, it’s best to abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. Otherwise, you and the vehicle can quickly be swept away.

**Do not drive around road barriers.** The road or bridge may be washed out.

**Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** Electrocutation is the second largest cause of flood-related deaths as electrical current does travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company.

**Have your electricity turned off by the Power Company.** Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

**Look out for animals, especially snakes.** Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or a stick to poke and turn things over and to scare away small animals.

**Look before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floors are often covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

**Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don’t smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

**Receive emergency alerts.** Register your mobile phones with the Navajo County emergency notification system (Ready Navajo): <http://www.navajocountyaz.gov/Departments/Emergency-Management-and-Preparedness/Ready-Navajo-County-Notification-System/Ready-Navajo-County-Registration>.

### PREPARE

- Prepare an emergency kit that includes: flashlights, radio, batteries, candles, matches, first-aid kit and a list and supply of all medications, blankets, water, food, tools to shut off utilities, etc.
- Keep important documents and valuable possessions on an upper level of the structure or as high as possible.
- Make a list of items to take with you and your family and have a plan for your pets.
- Establish a family meeting place.
- Know how to safely shut off your utilities.
- Listen for emergency instructions from authorities.

### PREVENT

- Keep storm drains, gutters, and ditches clear.
- Check with the City to see if a permit is required if you plan to build on, fill, alter or re-grade your property.
- Never excavate, modify, landscape, or build anything on any levee or flood control easement without permits from the appropriate local county, state, and federal agencies.

### PROTECT

- Never drive through flooded streets or roads; more people are trapped and die in their vehicles than anywhere else during floods.
- Never try to escape rising floodwater by going into the attic unless you have roof access or no other safe options.
- Consider buying flood insurance.