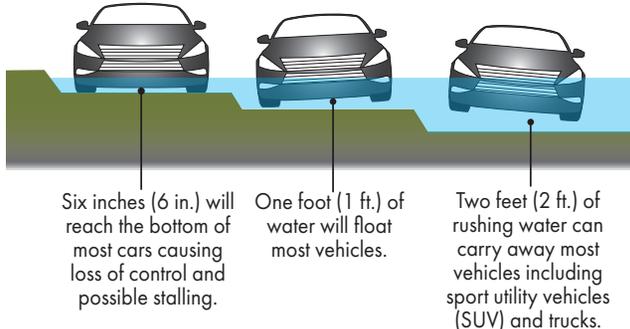


HOW CAN YOU KEEP SAFE IN A FLOOD?

The safety of you and your loved ones is the first priority during a major flood event. All roads that cross washes (Vista Chino, Indian Canyon Drive, Gene Autry Trails, and Araby Drive) are subject to frequent flooding and subsequent closures. Avoid driving if possible; if an evacuation is ordered, expect that most major streets (Palm Canyon, Ramon Road, Tahquitz Canyon Way, and Sunrise Way) will be open for use as evacuation routes. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Do not walk through flowing water since currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. The number two flood killer is electrocution. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires since electrical current can travel through water. The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:



TURN AROUND – DON'T DROWN!

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO DURING A FLOOD?

Tune into local commercial radio stations: 1690 kHz (fixed ALERT AM station), KDES - 98.5FM or KPSI - 920AM, NOAA Weather Radio frequency KIG78 162.400, or Spectrum Cable Channel 17 for news and flash flood bulletins along with corresponding emergency or evacuation instructions. If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- ✓ Unplug electrical equipment, such as radios, televisions, and small appliances.
- ✓ Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so.
- ✓ Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture and move essential items to an upper floor.

You can contact **Southern California Gas Company** at **(800) 427-2200** or go to their website at socalgas.com to

get information on how to turn the gas off at the meter yourself. You can contact **Southern California Edison** at **(800) 611-1911** or you can go to their website at sce.com to get information on what to do in a power outage.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

The city needs your help to reduce flooding during major rainfall events. Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) maintains the major channels and washes within the City of Palm Springs. They perform periodic cleaning and maintenance activities of these channels and washes in accordance with established schedule and operating procedures. Residents are encouraged to assist in maintaining the drainage in their areas by removing or reporting obstructions (such as shopping carts, leaves, debris, trash, etc.). Keeping drainage channels free of obstructions reduces local flooding during a major rainfall event.

- ✓ DO NOT dump liquid solvents, paints, or chemicals other than non-contaminated water into the City's gutter and drainage systems. City of Palm Springs Municipal Codes 8.70.050 & 8.70.60 are in place to avoid damage to the City's storm drain system.
- ✓ DO NOT spray off pool filters, wash your car, or change your car oil in the street where contaminants can be washed away into the storm drain system.
- ✓ DO your part in keeping storm drain inlets free and clear of brush and debris by keeping your yard waste on-site or in bins.
- ✓ DO report any dumping or debris in drainways, ditches, or stream beds by contacting Engineering Services at onlyrain@palmsspringsca.gov.

Do you have a serious drainage or flooding problem on your property? Email the City of Palm Springs at flood.info@palmsspringsca.gov with the address, phone number, email, and description of the flooding issue. We will send an Engineering Services personnel to assess the situation on-site. After conferring with City Engineers and Building Department officials, we will contact you with recommendations.

CONTACT THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA INFORMATION AT:

flood.info@palmsspringsca.gov

FEMA CONTACT INFORMATION:

www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program

PH: (800) 427-4661

TTY: (800) 462-7585 FAX: (800) 827-8112

August 2019



**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
ENGINEERING SERVICES**

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM/COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

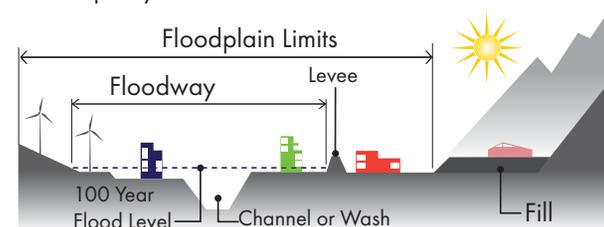
FLOOD RISK AND FLOOD INSURANCE INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE HISTORIC FLOOD HAZARD WITHIN OUR CITY?

While dry and arid for most of the year, the City of Palm Springs is especially prone to flooding due to its proximity to the adjacent mountains. Significant storm water runoff is experienced from time to time in the Whitewater River, Tahquitz Creek, Palm Canyon Wash, Snow Creek Canyon Wash/San Geronio River, Chinó Canyon Wash, and Mission Creek. However, many other areas within the City of Palm Springs beyond these natural drainage courses experience flooding. Although much of the city is protected by a variety of flood control improvements, including concrete levees, storm drains, and detention basins, there are areas of the city where properties are located in or near a special flood hazard areas and risk flooding as a result of severe storms.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FLOOD PLAINS?

Understanding and protecting the natural functions of Creeks, channels, washes, and floodplains helps in reducing flood damage and protects our precious resources. When flooding spreads out across a floodplain area, its energy is dissipated. This results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of a wash or channel bank, and deposition of sediments higher in the watershed improving groundwater recharge. Floodplains, channels, and washes are scenic, valued wildlife habitats. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to stream bank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties and degradation of water quality.





CITY OF PALM SPRINGS ENGINEERING SERVICES

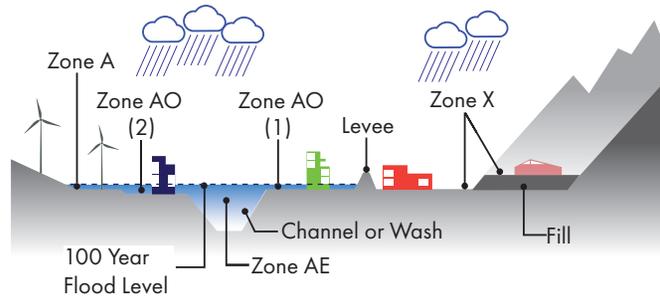
NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM/COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

HOW IS THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS PROTECTED FROM POTENTIAL FLOODS?

Major flood control structures in the Palm Springs area include the Whitewater River Levee, the Chino Canyon Levee and Channel, and the Palm Canyon Wash Levee. The levee between Palm Canyon Wash and Indian Drive, maintained by the RCFC&WCD, protects the portion of the City south of the Whitewater River from flooding. The Chino Canyon Levee and Channel protect the northern part of the highly developed Palm Springs area from 100- and 500-year flooding from Chino Creek and the Whitewater River. The Palm Canyon Wash levee directs flows from Palm Canyon and Arenas Canyon northeastward to the Tahquitz Creek, then eastward to the Whitewater River. It provides 100-year storm protection on the north side of the channel down to Tahquitz Creek and on the south side of Tahquitz Creek channel to the Whitewater River.

ARE YOU IN A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) updated their Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) in August 2008 and now include aerial photography within the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM). The City's Engineering Services Department can help you determine if your property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Properties in Zone X are NOT in an SFHA. Properties in Zone A, AE and AO are in a SFHA and have the potential for flooding caused by a 100-year storm. The City of Palm Springs maintains some elevation certificates for structures in the SFHA since February 1991. The City of Palm Springs periodically receives Letters of Map Amendments (LOMA) and Letter of Map Revisions (LOMR) issued by FEMA. These updates are noted on the appropriate DFIRM affected. Email the City Engineering Services Department at: flood.info@palmspringsca.gov with the address or Assessor Tax Number of the property in question and we will email you a Flood Information Report for the property in question.



WHAT ABOUT PURCHASING FLOOD INSURANCE?

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted, resulting from the flood community meeting the three goals of the CRS rating, and to promote the awareness of flood insurance:

- To reduce flood losses
- To facilitate accurate insurance rating
- To promote the awareness of flood insurance.

Go to www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program for more information.

The City of Palm Springs is the only city in the Coachella Valley to participate in the NFIP/CRS program. Residents of Palm Springs that need flood insurance holders will automatically receive a **20% discount** off their annual premium (compared to other valley cities), due to the city's **Class 6** rating. Preferred Risk Policies are available for those residents bordering, but not inside a flood zone. Remember, flood waters don't care about flood boundary lines on maps. If there is a risk to your property that happens occasionally with major rainfall events, a Preferred Risk Policy may be in your best interest to protect your home. **More than 25% of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside an SFHA.**

Call your local insurance agent to check on rates for your home.

Please note that there is a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.

Information that the City of Palm Springs can provide to you by phone or at flood.info@palmspringsca.

- ✓ Whether a property is in or out of a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and FEMA FIRMETTE.
- ✓ Additional flood insurance data for the site, such as FIRM zone and the base flood elevation or depth, if shown on the FIRM.
- ✓ The City will include a handout on flood insurance purchase requirements that can help people who need a mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.
- ✓ The City of Palm Springs maintains some elevation certificates for new and substantially improved structures in an SFHA after January 1, 1991.
- ✓ The City has additional FIRM information on flood depth, special flood related hazards, historical flood information, and natural floodplain functions.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR HOME?

The City of Palm Springs regulates construction and development in an SFHA to ensure that buildings will be protected from flood damage. Avoid building in a flood prone area unless you elevate and reinforce your home. Elevating flood hazard areas with earth (FILL) are prohibited within designated floodways. Refer to the City of Palm Springs Municipal Code: Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 1739, Chapter 8.68 for specifics. Some things you can do to protect your property from possible flood damage are:

- ✓ Elevate damage-prone components, such as furnace, air conditioning units, and electrical system components.
- ✓ Construct a berm or swale to redirect drainage away from a building or residence.
- ✓ Correct sewer backup problems immediately, install sewer backflow valves, and anchor fuel tanks.
- ✓ Clear debris from drainage ways on your property, or near storm drain grates and curb inlets.

Please note that above items may be subject to City of Palm Springs permit and plan requirements.