



Points of Interest

- Preparing Families for Emergencies
- Flood Prevention
- Prevent Clogged Drains
- Tip of the Season

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**Sewer block or overflow?
Call us first at 644-8949**

VALLEJO SANITATION & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Currents

PREPARING FAMILIES FOR EMERGENCIES

Emergencies can take many forms: floods, fires and earthquakes are just a few. The Solano Co. Office of Emergency Services reminds us to prepare our families when it comes to emergencies:

- Create a family communications plan so you can get in touch with family members.
- Give copies of contact information and meeting locations to everyone in your family. Place a laminated copy and medical information to keep in your child's backpack.
- Discuss choices for communicating: telephones, cell phones, email, and bulletin boards.
- Make sure you know the emergency plan at your child's school.
- Make a decision about where family members will meet in case you cannot get home during an emergency. Show your kids the meeting spots so they are familiar



finding them on their own.

- Discuss how you can protect your pets during an emergency. Create a pet preparedness kit.
- Have the kids do a "scavenger hunt" for disaster supplies you will need to create a family disaster kit. For example, flashlight, batteries, radio, non-perishable foods, water, warm clothing. Copies of your plan should be kept in your disaster kit in case you need to leave in a hurry.
- Ask kids to discuss their concerns and feelings. Do they understand the plan and why it is needed?

The more we are prepared, the easier it will be to keep our families feeling safe and secure if an

emergency occurs.

You can log onto www.SolanoCounty.com/depts/oes for more ideas about how to prepare your family for emergencies.

Radio station KUIC, at 95.3 FM, carries local emergency information. Stay tuned!

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KNOW YOUR FLOOD POTENTIAL

Did You Know?

A 100-year flood is often used as a benchmark for catastrophic flooding.

This magnitude of flood has a 1% chance of occurring within any given year.

A floodplain is defined by FEMA as an area prone to flooding.

A flood stage water level is the water level at which a river overflows its banks.

A flood watch means a storm is possible in your area.

A flood warning means that a flood is occurring or about to occur in your area.

Be aware if that if you live in a low-lying area there could be a high risk of flooding. Call the Vallejo Public Works Department at 648-5229 and ask whether your property is in a flood plain and if it is above or below the flood stage water level. To help determine your flood risk, consider the elevation of your home compared to the street level.

If your home was built after the establishment of the Federal Flood Insurance Program thirty years ago, its floor elevation is most likely above the flood stage water level. If your home is older, this may not be the case. Also, if you have converted a basement or garage into a living space, it may be subject to flooding.

Homes outside of floodplains can



sometimes be in danger of flooding as well.

Residents, whether they live in a floodplain or not, should be familiar with flood prevention and preparation.

CAN I PREVENT FLOODING?

Yes! Whether you live in urban or rural areas, taking precautionary measures can help prevent flood damage during the rainy season.

- Clean out gutter downspouts.
- Keep trash and

leaves out of street gutters to prevent clogging storm drains.

- Keep the drainage system (creeks and culverts) of your property clear of debris.

- Clear dead trees that may block a drainage system. Even during storms, it's possible to lower the potential for flooding by raking leaves that are clogging a storm drain.

VSFCD'S FLOOD CONTROL ROLE



The District's primary role in flood control is to protect lives and property from the effects of flooding by comprehensive, coordinated flood prevention planning. The District evaluates flood

risk and implements flood control measures such as requiring new development to construct detention basins. The District:

- Implements flood control projects;
- Maintains existing flood control facilities;
- Develops and implements master plans for selected areas;
- Provides technical support and

information on flood control for the City;

- Reviews proposed development projects to see that they meet District standards.

The District also works to protect Vallejo from the threat of floods by designing and constructing channels, storm drains, dams, pump stations and other drainage related facilities.

PREPARE YOUR HOME

You can help prevent or reduce damage caused by flooding with these simple tips:

- Secure motor oil, antifreeze, and household chemicals on high, enclosed shelves.
- Landscape with native plants that resist soil erosion.
- Raise your washer, dryer and other equipment in your garage above the base flood elevation. This is the elevation of a



- 100-year flood event.
- For the few homes with basements, install flood shields or barriers above the base flood elevation.
- For rural residents with septic systems, new septic systems should be constructed in areas that will not be impacted by floodwaters.

On The Web

National Weather Service
www.crh.noaa.gov

The Weather Channel
www.weather.com

American Red Cross
www.RedCross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov

Floodplain Management Association
www.floodplain.org

Bay Area Flood Maps
www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/eqmaps/eqfloods/floods

Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District
www.vsfcd.com

PREPARE YOUR FAMILY

- Check your homeowners or renters insurance for flood coverage—if none exists, consider purchasing it.
- Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- Keep emergency numbers by all phones.
- Store supplies at work, home and car in handy locations: first aid kit and essential medicines, non-perishable food items, non-electric can opener, cash, portable radio, flashlights and extra batteries.
- Store drinking water in closed, clean containers in case water service is interrupted. Allow one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.
- Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.
- Keep your car fueled.
- Keep sandbags and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.

SANDBAGS



During the winter, the District makes free sandbags and sand available to Vallejo area residential customers. You will need supplies before you come, so

check our website at www.vsfcd.com. The Sandbag Station is located at the back of the treatment plant at the west end of Solano Avenue.

Sources

Solano County Flood Awareness, Solano County Water Agency, Office of Emergency Services

KEEP HOLIDAY SCRAPS OUT OF YOUR SINK; PREVENT OVERFLOWS

Most of the sewer overflows in Vallejo residences are caused by too much cooking grease heading into the sink instead of the trash.

Sewer overflows caused by backups can create health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause of overflows is sewer pipes that are blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Most often, grease that comes from home cooking gets washed into the plumbing system through the kitchen sink. Over time, grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system.

These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces, and do not prevent grease from going down the drains.

Commercial additives, including detergents, that claim to dissolve grease may instead push grease down the line and cause backups in other areas.



Do not pour grease down drains or garbage disposals. Scrape plates into the trash before washing or loading into the dishwasher. Wipe out small amounts of grease in pans with a paper towel prior to washing. Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps

and other solids, and empty them into the trash.

If you have a large amount of grease left over from deep frying, you can recycle it.

Simply bring it to Vallejo Garbage Service at 2021 Broadway in Vallejo. Hours are Thursday through Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

No appointment is necessary, but they are closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. For more info, call 552-3110.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem, prevent sewer overflows, and protect your local waterways is to keep cooking oil and grease out of the system.

If you'd like to receive a free brochure on Fat Free Sewers, call 644-8949 ext. 292.



Tip of the Season

Sometimes flooding occurs during rains because trash, leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste accumulate in storm drains. Flooding can cause property damage.

Here's how you can help: Keep raking those leaves and branches out of the storm drain near your house. Put them in your yard waste bin.

This will allow rainwater to flow smoothly and safely through the storm drain system out to the Bay.



Currents is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more information, visit www.vsfcd.com or call (707) 644-8949.