

How Does Douglas County Know a Flood is Coming?

Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time (ALERT) was created by the National Weather Service to signal us about possible flooding and receive advance warning of impending high water levels.

Know the Warnings: In case of a flooding emergency, the County may use the following means to alert you to the situation and possible evacuation routes.

Reverse 9-1-1 Call to Your Home

Emergency Communications Personnel may use our Reverse 9-1-1 system to call your home and alert you if there is a need to evacuate. Listen carefully to evacuation information and instructions on how to get help if you need assistance evacuating from your home. To register your cell phone for the reverse 9-1-1 system, visit our website at <http://www.douglascountynv.gov/799/Online-Services>.

Turn on your TV or Radio

During large storm events, or if you hear sirens, turn on a television or radio and tune in to a local station to find information about emergency and evacuation routes. The emergency broadcast station for Douglas County is KKFT 99.1 FM.

For additional information on how to prepare before, during and after a flood, visit www.NevadaFloods.org.

Important Numbers & Websites

For floodplain information please call the Douglas County Stormwater Program Manager at 775-782-6215. Visit our website at www.douglascountynv.gov. The floodplain ordinance can be found in County Code, Title 20, Chapter 20.50.

National Flood Insurance Program
1-800-427-4661

Important Links:

www.fema.gov

www.Ready.gov

www.NevadaFloods.org

www.Ready.gov/kids

www.floodsmart.gov



Douglas County Community Development

1594 Esmeralda Ave

PO Box 218

Minden, NV 89423

Phone: 775-782-6217

Fax: 775-782-9007

www.douglascountynv.gov

Nevada Floods. Are You Prepared?



Photo courtesy of Laura Crane

Tips for Douglas County residents to prepare and protect their property from flood hazards.

Flooding in Douglas County

Precipitation in Douglas County falls onto three major drainage basins or watersheds: the Carson River, Walker River and Lake Tahoe basins. Flooding in Douglas County is a natural process that occurs on a regular basis. It is also one of the most devastating and costly natural events that our communities face. Serious flooding can happen approximately every 10-20 years, and often occurs after rain-on-snow events or summer thunderstorms.

Floodplains are valuable areas that benefit our watersheds by storing and slowing water. They help protect our drinking water and wildlife habitat. In Douglas County, floodplains provide opportunities for agricultural activity, open space, and recreation, while limiting property loss from flooding. The nature and extent of use within the floodplain should be compatible with the risk involved and the degree of protection that can be provided.



Flooding during the 1997 New Years Flood. Photo courtesy of the Reno Gazette Journal.

Is your property at risk of flooding?

The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, represents the 100-year regulatory floodplain. This means that in any given year, your property has a one-in-100 chance of becoming flooded. But all homes, in and out of the SFHA, are subject to smaller floods, which have a higher percent chance of occurring in any given year. To find out if your home is located within the SFHA, please call the Douglas County Stormwater Program Manager at 775-782-6215.



Flooding in Carson Valley in 1997. Photo courtesy of the Reno Gazette Journal.

Flood Insurance: Are You Covered?

For many of us, our home and its contents are our greatest investment. Standard homeowner and renter insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Douglas County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and its Community Rating System (CRS). This means residents are eligible to receive flood insurance coverage at a discounted rate. Call your insurance agent or the NFIP at 1-800-427-4661 for more information.

Drainage System Maintenance

Inspection of drainage facilities are performed by Douglas County staff annually, after major storms, and in response to citizens' complaints. Douglas County believes in active and timely response, followed by documentation. When conditions requiring maintenance are identified, maintenance or repairs are conducted in a reasonable time frame (not to exceed 30 days).

Action to resolve drainage problems are researched and prioritized. Specific actions to minimize drainage damage to property range from routine ditch, culvert or channel cleaning, to reconstruction of facilities, to engineering designs and drainage diversions to redistribute stormwater flows. The County Stormwater Program Manager maintains drainage facilities maintenance records.



A culvert requiring maintenance in Douglas County. Photo courtesy of Douglas County staff.