

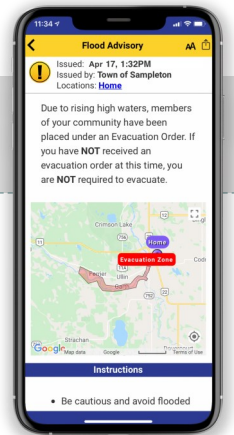
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Flood Safety Guidance — Preparing for a Flood



City of Sumas



REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY

Voyent Alert! Is a multi-purpose communication service provided by the City of Sumas to keep you informed of critical events like floods as well as day-to-day communications such as road maintenance and closures, water advisories, etc.

Receive alerts over a wide variety of communication channels including mobile apps, text/SMS alerting, email or voice dial. You can register for one or more communication channels.

Smart alerting capabilities ensure that you will only get notified when a communication is relevant to you or one of the locations you are following.

MOBILE APP USERS

Download and install the Voyent Alert! App from the Apple App or Google Play stores



REGISTER ONLINE

Register online to receive email, voice or text-based alerts at:

register.voyent-alert.us

Steps to Take Today

→ **Voyent Alert! Notification System:** Register for free to receive notifications of current or pending situations or emergencies.

→ Be familiar with the City's notification procedures (See Ready, Set, Go brochure)

→ **Flood Insurance:** A regular homeowner's policy will not cover losses caused by flooding; supplemental flood insurance is available from your agent. Property owners may insure their buildings and contents; renters may insure their possessions.

→ **List of Belongings:** Make a list of your property so that you can substantiate an insurance claim. Take photos of major items. Keep the list and photos in a safe place.

→ **Evacuation Route:** Learn the best route from your home to safe, high ground. Choose a family rendezvous point in case you are separated during a flood. Arrange a place that you and your family can live during an emergency.

→ **Evacuation Kit:** Prepare an evacuation kit that includes: a battery-operated radio; a flashlight; spare batteries; bottled water; canned goods; rain gear; warm clothing.

→ **Shut-off Valves:** Learn where the water, gas and electrical shutoffs are in your home.

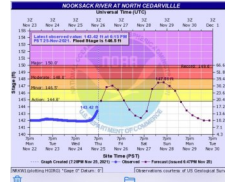
→ **Protection Plan:** Think about how you would protect belongings during a flood. Find a place where you can park cars, RVs, trailers, etc. If you are a business owner, identify expensive items in your inventory that can be moved to higher shelves.

→ **Raise Your Home:** Consider raising the foundation of your home to provide permanent protection from flooding.

→ **Obtain Information:** The building department is available for assessments of property and for the review of flood maps. Elevation certificates for many properties within the City are on file and available for review, as well.

When Flooding Is Likely

→ **Flood Level:** A river gauge in Deming is used to monitor the flood level—most bulletins refer to the gauge's reading. Flooding usually starts in Everson when the North Cedarville gauge reads 146.5, and water arrives in Sumas 10 to 12 hours thereafter.



→ **Information:** Monitor the river by:

- Whatcom County River Conditions & Forecast website — <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/666/Forecasts-Current-River-Conditions>
- Call Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management— Incident Hotline 360-738-4551

→ **Siren:** When the river overflows in Everson, and the flooding has been deemed imminent within the City of Sumas, the Siren will sound.

→ **Pre-evacuation:** Make sure your evacuation kit is ready. Do not forget vital prescription medicines.

→ **Property Protection:** If time permits (if no evacuation order has been received), you can take steps to protect your property.

- Move furniture and small appliances to the second floor or to a higher surface.
- Shutoff electric, gas and water service.
- Evacuate vehicles as planned.
- Move toxic substances to high spots.

→ **Sandbags:** Sandbags can be used to block minor amounts of water. During flood warnings, sand and bags are available near the railroad tracks at the corner of Railroad and First Street.

DURING THE FLOOD

→ **Flood Warning System:** The City of Sumas will use the Voyent Alert! Notification System to notify subscribers of flooding conditions and procedures. (Refer to Ready, Set, Go brochure).

→ **Telephones:** Stay off the phone except for essential calls. To request help or report important information, please call the non-emergency dispatch 360-676-6911, or 911 if you need emergency help.

→ **Evacuation:** When order to evacuate, do so immediately. DO NOT ignore the advice of the public safety experts. Try to follow the safe route that you've already planned.

→ **Neighbors:** Help your elderly or disabled neighbors.

→ **Driving:** If possible, DO NOT drive through a flooded area. There might be submerged obstacles that you can't see. Especially avoid driving in a flooded area at night. **MOST DROWNINGS DURING A FLOOD OCCUR WITHIN A CAR OR TRUCK.** If your car stalls, abandon the car and wade to a safe place.

DO NOT drive past road barriers put up by police or public works crew.



Driving through a flooded area create waves that can increase the flood damage to nearby residences and businesses.

→ **Wading:** Avoid wading through water that reaches higher than your knee.

→ **Stranded:** If you are unable to evacuate your house because of high water, move to the second floor or to the roof. Wait for a rescue boat to arrive.

→ **Electricity:** Electrocutation is a major safety concern during floods. Stay away from downed power lines. Report downed lines to City Hall.

AFTER THE FLOOD



→ **Structural Check:** Before entering a building, check for structural damage. Make sure the building is not in danger of collapsing. (If your building has been severely damaged, now may be the time to elevate or flood-proof the building.)

→ **Gas:** Be alert for the smell of gas. DO NOT use an open flame for light.

→ **Animals:** Small animals may have looked for shelter in your home. Use a stick to poke and turn items over and scare away small animals.

→ **Utilities:** Be cautious about turning on electricity and gas. Check for live wires, shorts, etc.

→ **Water:** Do not start using city water until it has been declared safe.

→ **Appliances:** Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried by a professional.

→ **Perishables:** Food or medicines that have gotten wet might be contaminated by chemicals, sewage, etc. When in doubt, throw it out.

→ **Clean-up:** Clean everything that got wet. Refrigerators, sofas, and other hard goods should be hosed off and kept for the insurance adjuster's inspection. Use a household cleanser to clean other items.

→ **Basements:** A flooded basement should be pumped out gradually over a period of three days. Rapid pumping might lead to structural damage.

→ **Photographs:** Take pictures of the damage to your building and its contents. Contact your agent to make a claim.

CRAWLSPACE

IF THE FLOOD VENTS ARE TO BE PLUGGED IT SHOULD BE DONE FROM INSIDE THE CRAWL SPACE OR LEFT OUT DURING THE FLOOD SEASON.