

## FLOODPLAIN SAFETY

This brochure is being sent to you for informational purposes because our records show that your property is very likely located in the floodplain.

Lake Elsinore is the largest natural lake in Southern California. Adjacent to the lake, streams, rivers and channels in the City are natural beneficial low lying areas known as floodplains and floodways. These areas are used to discharge and contain flood waters and are prone to 100 year flood events. This means that in any given year, a property in a floodplain or floodway has a one-in-100 chance of becoming flooded. Sources of flooding include Arroyo del Toro, Channel H, Elsinore Spillway Channel, Lake Elsinore, Leach Canyon Channel, Lime Street Channel, McVicker Canyon, Ortega Wash and Channel, Rice Canyon, San Jacinto River, Temescal Wash, Stovepipe Canyon Creek, Wash G & I, Murrieta Creek and Wasson Canyon Creek.

The last 100 year flooding events occurred in the early to mid-1980s. The potential for flooding is greatest from October through April during the rainy season. All shoreline property around the lake at or below elevation 1263 feet is subject to flooding when lake levels rise. The Lake Elsinore Management Project, constructed between 1988 and 1995, was designed to conserve water, improve water quality and reduce flood risk. Contact the Lake Division to learn more at [www.lake-elsinore.org](http://www.lake-elsinore.org).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and City staff are available to help you determine if your property is in a floodplain.

FEMA has conducted mapping of the City's special flood hazard areas (SFHA). You can access the FEMA maps on the internet at <http://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/FemaWelcomeView>.

A City Engineering Division Technician can assist with determining a property's SFHA, Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Zone and

Base Flood Elevation, if available. Elevation Certificate forms and review of existing certificates, if available.

City assistance is available:

- In person at the City Hall public counter
- By telephone at 951-674-3124, x 241
- Via email by visiting the City's web site at [www.lake-elsinore.org](http://www.lake-elsinore.org)

## THERE ARE THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE TODAY THAT WILL HELP PREPARE FOR A FLOODING EMERGENCY.

There are several things that you can do to help the City. Grade your yard to force rain to the street. Keep leaves and other debris out of the gutter so storm drains are free to move water away from homes and businesses. When it rains, notify the Public Works Department at 951-674-5170 of any flooding you see occurring.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

For many, a home and its contents is their greatest investment. There is a 26% chance of experiencing a flood over the life of a 30 year mortgage. It is important to realize that standard homeowner and renter insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Coverage is available through the national Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). You are encouraged to buy flood insurance—whether or not your home is located within the SFHA. The City is presently applying for participation in the NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) program. Our participation in the CRS will enable residents of the City to receive a discount on flood insurance. Call your insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance Program at (800) 638-6620. There is a 30 day waiting period before coverage goes into effect, so don't delay, call today!

## DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

To help prevent flood damage, the City's Floodplain Management and Zoning Ordinances regulate development in the SFHA's. The City reviews development projects and improvements to existing structures within SFHA's to ensure compliance with City, State and Federal floodplain regulations. These regulations hold improvements or reconstruction of an existing structure that equal or exceed 50% of the market value to the same requirements as new construction. In the area around the lake, import of dirt is prohibited and a minimum ground flood elevation for structures

is 1267 ft. For more information on these regulations contact an Engineering Technician at 951-674-3124.

## FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

Flood events generally occur as a result of heavy rains over a period of days.

Email Notification. Sign up at [www.lake-elsinore.org](http://www.lake-elsinore.org).  
Emergency Services Personnel. Will be sent out by the City to notify residents of the need to evacuate once an emergency has been declared.

TV, Radio and Newspapers. During large storm events, stay current with rising water conditions. Tune your radio to 101.3 or 95.1 and TV to channels 7 or 9.

## SAFETY DURING A STORM

The following tips may be helpful:

- Be prepared to evacuate before the water level reaches your property.
- Keep a battery powered radio tuned to a local station. Follow emergency instructions given.
- If you are caught in the house by rising waters, move to the second floor and if necessary to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Wait for help. Don't try to swim to safety. Rescue teams will look for you.
- When outside the house, remember: WATER DEPTHS DURING FLOODS ARE DECEPTIVE. Try to avoid flooded areas and DO NOT attempt to walk or drive through floodwaters.
- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary.
- Move valuable items to upper floors or higher elevations.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and jugs with clean water in case regular supplies are contaminated. It is recommended you sanitize these items first.
- Board up windows or protect them with storm shutters or tape to prevent flying glass.
- Bring outdoor possession inside the house or tie them down securely.
- Stock the car with blankets, first aid kit, flashlights, dry clothing and any special medication needed by your family. Park the car in an area safe from rising waters.



# BE PREPARED, BE WATER WISE

- STORM WATER/DRAIN NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
- FLOODPLAIN SAFETY (FEMA)

## A GUIDE FOR THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE RESIDENTS

130 S. Main Street  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530  
Phone: 951-674-3124 / Fax: 951-674-8761  
[www.lake-elsinore.org/Engineering](http://www.lake-elsinore.org/Engineering)

## STORM WATER POLLUTION, WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Everyday activities in our communities can affect the quality of water in our watershed. While individual homes might contribute only minor amounts of polluted water runoff, the combined effect of an entire community within the watershed can seriously affect our channels, rivers, lakes, and streams. Everyday items like household chemicals, automotive fluids, vehicles, motorized recreational equipment, leaves, branches, loose top soil, and trash, over a period of time may become significant sources of contamination and obstruct flood channels causing flooding during heavy rains.

## YOU are the Solution to Storm Water Pollution!

### CAR WASHING AND REPAIRS

- Wash cars on a lawn or unpaved surface that will absorb and help filter the water.
- Don't allow polluted waste water to flow into the street, gutter or storm drain inlet.
- Repair leaking vehicles promptly.
- Use absorbents like cardboard, cat litter, cloths, etc. to safely catch spills.
- Sweep up used absorbent materials and place in the trash.
- Never dump oil or any auto fluids onto the ground or into a storm drain inlet.
- If you change your own oil or antifreeze, be sure to recycle it! Call 1-800-CLEANUP for the nearest disposal location.

**TIPS:** Use a commercial car wash. Car wash facilities are designed to capture all waste water. If an auto service center changes the oil, make sure they divert water runoff away from street gutters and storm drain inlets.

### YARD AND LAWN CARE

- Don't use chemical pesticides or herbicides unless you have a major problem and never apply if rain is forecasted.
- Read labels carefully, and apply sparingly.
- Limit lawn treatment applications of chemical weed killers and fertilizers.
- Be sure that your lawn is appropriately watered, mowed, thatched, and aerated.
- Try less-toxic alternatives for the yard and garden. Call 1-800-506-2555 for FREE copy of a Home Garden Care Guide to Help Protect Our Environment.
- Don't blow or rake yard waste into the street or gutter.
- Sweep up the leaves and clippings in a trash can or start a compost pile.
- If you are renovating your landscaping, think erosion control. Prevent dirt and debris from washing into storm drains.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in trash cans. Always remember to pick up after your dog when you take it for a walk

### HOUSEHOLD CLEANING AND PAINTING

- Send dirty cleaning water down a sink or toilet, not into the street gutter; or storm drain system.
- Try non-toxic alternatives. Call 1-800-506-2555 to order a FREE brochure on environmentally friendly cleaning alternatives for the home.
- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into the street, gutter or storm drain inlet.
- Clean latex paint from brushes in a sink.
- Filter and reuse thinners and solvents for oil based paints.
- Dispose of unusable paints, thinners, thinner residue, and cleaning products at a collection event. Call 909-358-5256 or [www.rivecoeh.org](http://www.rivecoeh.org) for the date and location of the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

**TIPS:** Empty or dry paint cans may go in with regular household garbage - remove lids first, before disposal. Let your friends, relatives and neighbors know that storm drains flow directly to local rivers, lakes and streams without treatment. NEVER dispose in a storm rain.

### POOL/SPA MAINTENANCE

- Control algae by regulating chlorine levels. Do not use copper-based algae control products.
- If you need to drain your pool water, call your local sewer agency to find out if a connection to the sanitary sewer line is allowed.
- If your sewer agency will not accept pool water into their system, or if you are on a septic tank system, follow these guidelines:
  - Deplete the chemicals in the pool water, use your home pool chemistry test kit to verify the pool water is free of all chemicals.
  - Drain pool water to landscaped areas, lawns, yards, or any area that will absorb most of the water. You may have to drain the pool water over a period of a few days to allow the landscape areas to absorb most of the water.
  - Avoid discharging pool water into the gutter or storm drain. Divert filter rinse water and backwash into landscaped or absorbent areas

### SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- If you use a septic system, make sure it is functioning properly. Overflowing septic systems release raw sewage that can flow to rivers, lakes and ground water, causing serious contamination.
- How often your tank will need pumping depends largely on the size of the tank, the number of people in the household, and the kinds of wastewater discharging appliances you use.
- When septic tank service companies are hired to pump out the contents of the septic tank, they must dispose of contents at approved disposal sites. Call 909-955-8980 for a Home Maintenance Guide.

### HELP US HELP YOU

The City is vitally interested in preventing pollution of the lake and reducing the risk of flooding. City municipal code 14.08 Storm water/Urban Runoff Management and Discharge Controls was established to help govern storm water pollution.

**A STORM DRAIN DUMPING VIOLATION has been found in your neighborhood....**

DID YOU KNOW... that storm drains are not connected to a waste water treatment plant? Any

pollutant that enters a storm drain, stream or channel flows directly to our local lakes and rivers—without treatment and elevate flood water levels.

**Please help keep our waterways free of pollution by keeping harmful materials out.**

The illegal disposal or dumping of waste into the storm drain is a serious problem. State laws and local ordinances strictly prohibit dumping of harmful pollutants into the storm drain system or local waterways. (Ord 582). If you see or suspect illegal dumping, contact the City [Code Enforcement Division](#) at 951-674-3124.

Harmful substances include:

- Motoroil
- Antifreeze/Transmission Fluids
- Grease
- Detergents
- Solvents/Degreaser
- Paint/paint products
- Pesticides/Fertilizers
- Construction Debris
- Fresh Concrete, Motar/Cement
- Animal Waste
- Trash
- Yard Waste

To report issues with your local levee, storm drain backups, or illegal dumping in ditches, gutters, streams, channels, lakes or rivers call the City at 951-674-3124.

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

City Hall:	951-674-3124
	<a href="http://www.lake-elsinore.org">www.lake-elsinore.org</a>
Public Works:	951-674-5170
Water/Sewer:	951-674-3146
Solid Waste:	800-755-8112
Police Dept.:	951-245-3300
Fire Dept.:	951-674-2161
Electric Comp.:	800-655-4555
Gas Company:	800-427-2200
FEMA:	<a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a>
National Flood Insurance Prog.:	800-638-6620