

## **Did You Know That During A Flood:**

Flood waters poison whatever they touch including wells, gardens, and food in pantries and freezers

Flood waters carry poison waste from septic systems, outhouses, dog lots, dumps, and other sources that spread contamination and disease.

Floating or flooded vehicles, tanks, fuel drums, and containers leak poisons such as oil, pesticides, and gasoline into the water.

Animals that cannot reach safety above the flood waters may die from drowning or disease.

Buildings, lumber, firewood, fuel tanks, and propane tanks, and ATVs, can float away.

Three and four wheelers float – upside down!

Flood waters ruin tools, motors, engines, electronics, and building materials. The useful life of items repaired after a flood is much shorter than those that did not get flooded.

Items floating loose in flood waters act like battering rams causing more damage.

### **For More Information Contact:**

#### **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION**

350 East Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645  
(907) 745-9865; Fax (907) 745-9876  
email: [ccb@matsugov.us](mailto:ccb@matsugov.us)  
website: //www.matsugov.us

and

#### **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Emergency Services Division**

<http://www.matsugov.us/emergencyNFO/flood/>  
and

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency:**

website: //www.fema.gov/nfip/

Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Code Compliance Division  
350 East Dahlia  
Palmer, Alaska 99645



## **When Floods Visit Your Property**

**Simple Steps to Save  
Yourself Money  
and Heartache**



## When the Flood Comes

In Alaska, the things we keep outside our home are often more expensive or important to our livelihood, than the things we keep inside. Items in the yard are often badly damaged, destroyed, or lost in floods, but they are rarely insured, or replaced by disaster assistance.

Animals that cannot reach safety above the flood waters are likely to die from drowning or flood related disease.

Destructive floods strike with little warning. Basic "Flood Proofing" will reduce flood damage, and health / safety risks and make recovery easier, faster, and less expensive.

### Steps You Should Take Now To Protect Yourself

Find flood safe locations for your animals, fuel and propane tanks, firewood; boats snow machines, ATV's and other vehicles, freezers, food storage, generators, sheds, workshops, tools, equipment, building materials and other items you value.

- Obtain flood insurance for your home and items stored outside.

- Check with the borough for information and requirements before you excavate, fill, or build.
- DON'T make flooding worse by excavation, fill, or construction that is too low or improperly blocks or diverts water.
- Find out the nature of the flood risk and how high the flood waters on your land are likely to get. (Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Learn which directions the flood will travel how fast the water may move and rise and how long flooding may last.
- Make sure the lowest floor of your home, other buildings and possessions are at least two feet above the BFE. The lowest enclosed space of a building, including the basement or crawl space, should be above the BFE or have openings to allow water to flow through and quickly drain.
- Make sure your animals can reach safety, above the BFE, without help.
- Move buildings, animal lots, storage, and parking areas, above the BFE. Use high shelves inside low lying structures.
- Make and practice a plan to quickly move low lying items to high ground.
- Do not store trash, hazardous material or animal waste where it can be reached by flood waters.
- Anchor buoyant items that cannot be raised, such as propane and oil tanks, trailers, firewood, lumber, ATVs, etc.)
- Seal or raise, well casings, vents, and monitoring tubes, above the BFE.

- Raise the furnace, water heater, freezers, pantry, outhouse, drains, pumps, bath rooms, generators, electrical panels, connections and outlets, etc., above the BFE.
- Install "backflow preventer" valves in septic lines, and similar lines.
- Install large doors and ramps so large items can be quickly moved inside.
- In low lying yards, build a raised area for storage, with a ramp for easy access.
- Build ramps or hoists to help put items and animals on the deck or roof. Make easy access to the roof.
- Build flood proof walls around items that can't be elevated.
- Make sure what you build can support the load and withstand the flood.
- DON'T make flooding worse by excavation, fill or construction that's too low or improperly blocks or diverts water.
- Plan a safe evacuation route.
- Pay attention to weather conditions and forecasts. Act early and fast to move above the BFE.

