

# STORM PREPAREDNESS



The Contra Costa County Public Works Department (PWD) and the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FCD) encourage residents to ***prepare for intense storm events now*** to minimize risks during the rainy season. Historical storm events have caused severe rains and winds resulting in mudslides, downed trees, flooding, and property damage.

## DRAINAGE RESPONSIBILITIES - PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

Drainage responsibility is generally that of the property owner. Each property owner must act reasonably to accept water flowing onto their property and allow water to leave their property without causing damage to adjacent property. In Contra Costa County, drainage responsibilities are often shared amongst the following:

| PRIVATE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On private property including single family homes and HOA common areas</li><li>• Storm drain lines, drains, inlets, and drainage ditches</li><li>• Driveway culverts even if within road right-of-way</li><li>• Approximately 1,225 miles of creeks are on private property</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On public property in the unincorporated County</li><li>• Roadside drainage (often ditches, storm drain pipes and inlets, and cross culverts) within public road right of way</li><li>• Approximately 650 miles of road and associated roadside drainage to maintain</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On FCD property throughout the County, including incorporated areas</li><li>• Regional flood protection infrastructure in FCD property</li><li>• Approximately 79 miles of improved channels and 30 detention basins and dams</li></ul> |

## COUNTY AND FCD PREPARATION

Continuously throughout each year, PWD staff perform routine maintenance to keep their local and regional drainage facilities in optimal working condition. Thorough inspections are conducted before each rainy season begins, with a focus on areas of known historical flooding, to manage intense storm events effectively. Routine maintenance includes removal of debris and obstructions. Advanced preparation of equipment and resources occurs each Fall. PWD staff also monitor weather conditions and coordinate with emergency response efforts during storm events.

### Report Problems

If you see something that could become a hazard, such as a clogged storm drain, flooding of a street, a landslide on the road, a levee overtopping, or a downed tree, please notify the PWD right away. The PWD has on-call staff available 24/7 for emergency response. Problems can be reported in multiple ways:

- **Online:** Use the Customer Portal from any web browser to submit a request and track its status.
- **Mobile App:** Submit a request from your smartphone or tablet using the Mobile Citizen app.
- **Email:** [admin@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:admin@pw.cccounty.us)
- **Phone:** (925) 313-2000 | TTY: 711
- **After-Hours Issues (non-emergency):** (925) 646-2441 | TTY: 711

Visit [contracosta.ca.gov/RequestServices](https://contracosta.ca.gov/RequestServices) for more information.



For all emergency situations, **call 911**. If you see a person or car in a flooded area, do not try to rescue them yourself, as entering floodwater is dangerous.



In addition, DO NOT remove blockages or obstructions during an active flooding event. Flowing and flooding water are dangerous and should not be entered. Instead, call the PWD.

## PRIVATE PROPERTY RESOURCES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS

### Know Your Flood Risk

Evaluate your property and neighborhood drainage facilities. Where does rain water pool? How does runoff drain, and to where? For questions regarding local drainage, please contact FCD at (925) 313-2000 or [FLDContr@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:FLDContr@pw.cccounty.us).

Determine if your property is in a FEMA Flood Zone by visiting [contracosta.ca.gov/FloodplainProgram](http://contracosta.ca.gov/FloodplainProgram) for information on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplain Management Program.

### Prepare For Your Needs

Visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) to help get your emergency supplies in order. Plan for food, water, medical, and personal comfort needs for each household resident. Plan an evacuation route in case of fast-rising water.

### Prepare Your Property

Clean the roof gutters. Clear leaves from nearby drains and inlets. Make sure pipes, ditches, and driveway culverts on your property are not obstructed. If you live near a creek, take special precautions. Find out more about caring for your creek at [contracosta.ca.gov/PrivateCreeks](http://contracosta.ca.gov/PrivateCreeks). To protect your property, you may need sandbags. See where to get them and watch an instructional video at [contracosta.ca.gov/Sandbags](http://contracosta.ca.gov/Sandbags).

Watch the PWD Storm Preparation Video at [contracosta.ca.gov/StormPrep](http://contracosta.ca.gov/StormPrep) for additional safety tips, tools, and resources.

### Learn Flood Warning Tools

Knowing how to forecast if and when flooding may occur in your area will help you respond better. More frequent and extended storms increase the chances of flooding. Learn about flood forecasting at [contracosta.ca.gov/FloodForecast](http://contracosta.ca.gov/FloodForecast) and remember **7 5 3 2 Flood!**



**7** inches of rain for the season (season starts July 1st)

**5** inches of rain in the past 30 days

**3** inches of rain in the past 7 days

Critical Rainfall Forecast that could cause flooding:

**2** inches of rain in next 24 hours

Under these conditions, watersheds are saturated and future rains fill up the storm drains and creeks quickly. So pay attention to radio, TV, or internet flood warning information. The National Weather Service forecasts and advisories should be monitored at <https://www.weather.gov>

Rainfall data can also be viewed on the FCD Rain Map at [ccflood.us/rainmap.html](http://ccflood.us/rainmap.html).