

What you need to know about

FLOODING

WHAT IS FLOODING?

Flooding is where land that is usually dry becomes covered with water. This generally happens after heavy rain or when a nearby body of water overflows.

Flooding can cause severe loss of property and endanger human health to the point of death.

Floods are increasing in frequency because of climate change. Ice melting in the Arctic has meant rapid sea level rise globally, which impacts coastal areas like East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

More extreme weather from rising temperatures has meant drier ground. This means that when there is heavy rainfall, less rain permeates into the ground and increases the runoff. Higher sea levels will expose infrastructure not designed for such an event, which can cause damage to the area.

Be Prepared!

Have a plan ahead of time that is communicated to everyone in your household on:

- **How to communicate if cellular service is down**
- **Meet-up location if your home is not able to be accessed**
- **Pickup free sandbags to help protect your house at smcgov.org/publicworks/sandbags**

BACKPACK SUPPLIES:

Have a backpack ready to use with supplies such as:

- food and water
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio
- flashlight
- first aid kit
- masks
- A Whistle to signal for help
- extra batteries
- medications

WHO CAN YOU CALL?

- If you are in immediate risk of life, call 9-1-1
- National Weather Service & NOAA Weather Radio
 - Access updated online weather at: www.weather.gov/mtr/
- Local radio
 - Dial into 162.400 frequency
- Tune into Channel 12

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THERE'S A FLOOD?

- Evacuate immediately inland
- if water is rising, get to the highest place possible
- Don't walk or drive through flooded areas
- Avoid downed electrical wires (be aware that tree limbs can also conduct electricity)
- In the event of a flood, it is important to find a dry, safe place to stay and stay aware of how conditions will change.