

2010

December

Flood Preparedness

Flooding is the most common natural disaster in Yolo County.



Pierce Canyon Falls. Courtesy Andrew Fulks.

The average American home has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood during the course of a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 9% chance of fire. Approximately 30% of all flood insurance claims are from homes with minimal flood risk.⁵⁹

The natural cycle of the Sacramento Valley has long included seasonal flooding of large expanses of land due to excessive rainfall and snowmelt in winter and early spring. A comprehensive series of levees, dams, weirs, and bypasses has evolved over the past 150 years to create and protect the terrain we are familiar with today. However, flooding remains the most common natural disaster for all of us living in and around Yolo County.^{51,84}

Flooding can occur quickly and without warning—take these steps to make sure you and your family stay safe:

- Do not walk through a flooded area—just six inches of moving water can knock you down.
- Do not drive through a flooded area—two feet of water can lift and move even a large SUV. More people drown in cars than anywhere else during a flood.
- Keep away from downed power lines and other electrical wires. Electrocutation is a common cause of death during and after flooding.

AIDS Awareness Month • National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month • Safe Toys & Gifts Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 World AIDS Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24 County Holiday	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 County Holiday New Year's Eve	

Be Prepared for Any Emergency

To learn more about getting your home, family, business, or community prepared, call 1-800-BE-READY or visit www.ready.gov. In addition to general disaster preparedness tips, this website has information specific to different groups, such as children and the disabled, with links to local resources. There are also downloadable brochures and booklets available that can provide you with more tips on disaster preparedness for families and businesses.

Set Aside a Weekend to Stock Your Disaster Kit⁶⁰

- Water (1 gallon per person per day for at least 3 days)
- Food (min. 3-day supply of non-perishable food), paper plates, cups, utensils, napkins, can opener, infant formula (unless breastfeeding), pet food, and extra water for pets
- Prescription medications, glasses, toiletries (inc. feminine hygiene, towelettes, diapers)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers
- Copies of important documents in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash and change
- Emergency references (first aid book, information from www.ready.gov)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- Complete change of clothing (inc. long sleeved shirt, long pants, sturdy shoes)
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Paper and pencil, books, games, puzzles, activities for children



Safe Drinking Water

The health department may issue bottled water/boil water alerts after flooding until water supplies are safe. In such cases, bottled water or boiled water (water brought to a rolling boil for 1 full minute and cooled) should be used for cooking and drinking until further notice. Residents who do not have gas or electricity available may use liquid household bleach (16 drops or 1/2 teaspoon per gallon, mix thoroughly, and allow to stand for 30 minutes) or water purification tablets according to manufacturer's instructions.⁶⁸

- Be Prepared for an Emergency
- Red Cross, Yolo County
- Yolo Co. Flood Control & Water Conservation District

www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY
www.yc-arc.org
www.ycfcwcd.org