

FAQ'S ABOUT SFHAs

During times of flooding, not everyone is aware of some of the easy measures that can be taken to avoid injuries or major damages from floods. The following common sense guidelines can help avoid the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than any where else. Do not drive around barriers.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Turn off the power at the service box if your house is about to be flooded. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocutation is the 2nd leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. Report any potential leaks to the City or the gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.
- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry items that have dislodged themselves. Culverts may draft smaller people into them rendering them helpless.
- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water may be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals posing severe health threats.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.
- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

If your property is susceptible to flooding, there are many flood damage reduction measures you can employ:

- Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls to protect against low-level flooding.
- Major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.
- Temporary measures such as moving furniture and other valuables to higher floors or sandbagging exterior openings will also help.
- Elevating or relocating the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

Unfortunately, the City's sandbagging plan is designed to keep critical roads, buildings and services protected, and cannot to protect *every* house in town.

If you should require further or more detailed information regarding flood-related issues, here are some additional sources:

⇒ www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodins/infocon.shtm

⇒ City of Prospect Heights Engineering Dept.
8 North Elmhurst Road
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
(847) 398-6070 Ext. 211

⇒ <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>

⇒ Prospect Heights Public Library
12 Elm Street
Prospect Heights, IL 60070