

FACT SHEET #2

Flooding: Am I in a Risk Area?

Do you live in a low-lying area susceptible to flooding? Do you know enough about flood risk?

The severity of local flooding, and whether or not major flooding occurs on along river systems, depends mostly on the weather conditions during snowmelt in May and June. The weather determines when and how rapidly snowmelt occurs. Unusually high snowpacks naturally raise the possibility of flooding, but risk is determined by a combination of events and conditions:

- Heavy, concentrated rain events
- Heavy rains mixed with spring's melting snow, creating excessive run-off into rivers and lakes
- Ice jams – water upstream is blocked by ice downstream
- On the coast, seasonally high tides amplified by a severe storm

Here's what you can do right now to minimize personal risk and property damage before a flood:

- Know if you live in a flood-risk area
- If there is a potential for flooding in your area, pay attention to the local media and know where you can get updated information about weather conditions and flood risk
- Know how to prepare for an evacuation
- Bring anything inside your house that might float away
- Keep important papers in watertight containers and have pictures of your property and valuables
- Prepare an emergency supply grab-and-go kit that you can easily take with you if you evacuate
- Make plans for pets and livestock

Remember that if rising waters become a threat to your safety, follow the instructions of officials who are involved in rescue or flood response operations, including those directing traffic, as water can be deeper than it appears. Keep disaster response routes clear.

Go to www.pep.bc.ca for more information on personal emergency preparedness

Contact:

Comox Valley Emergency Program

3001 Moray Ave.

Courtenay, BC

V9N 7S7 email: cvep@shawcable.com

telephone: 250-334-8890