



Community Development Department

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Play it Safe During a Flood

How will I know a flood is coming?

- You will be warned of a flood or storm by radio and TV. If the weather looks threatening or the rivers are running high, tune in to one of these **radio stations**: KELA at 1470 am, KMNT at 104.3 fm, KITI at 1420 am, or Live 95 at 95.1 fm.
- You can sign up to receive **email flood alerts**. Send your name, email, and the river gage number(s) you are interested in receiving to scottb@sbgh-partners.com. The gage numbers for the Chehalis at West Main Street (Route 6) is 12025100, at Centralia (Mellen Street) is 12025500, and for the Newaukum is 12025000.
- If you want more details on **predicted flooding** on the big rivers, check the National Weather Service's gage sites for the [Chehalis](#) at Centralia (Mellen Street) or [Newaukum](#) Rivers.

For more information on the Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System, click [here](#).

Should I evacuate?

Evacuation is always the best idea if your home could get flooded. If you evacuate, keep these safety precautions in mind:

- Set up arrangements for communicating with family and friends when you evacuate.
- Turn off the electricity and gas to your house before you leave.
- "Turn Around Don't Drown" is a handy precaution to remember. Don't walk or drive through a flooded street. More people die in their cars than anywhere else during a flood.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Lewis County Public Utility District (PUD) at (800)562-5612 or 911.



What should I take with me?

The Red Cross has a short and handy [guide on preparing for a flood](#). There's good safety information here, too.

Where should I go?

Do you have friends or relatives who have room to house your family? If so, make arrangements in advance so you know a place will be available when you need it. Make sure they aren't in the floodplain.

Public shelters may be set up if a large number of people are displaced. Their locations will be publicized through the media and on the Lewis County website.

What can I expect when I return?

The Red Cross has a booklet on returning to and repairing a flooded house, [Repairing Your Flooded Home](#).

How else can I prepare?

See the City's [Emergency Flood Instructions](#)

Lewis County Emergency Management has lots of information on preparing your family for emergencies. Check out their [website](#).

Here's a link to the Lewis County [Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan \(CEMP\)](#)