



226 West Fourth Street • Davenport, Iowa 52801
www.cityofdavenportiowa.com

Dear Resident/Property Owner:

You have received this letter because your property is in an area that either regularly experiences, has experienced, or may experience river flooding at river stages 13 FT and above.

Due to the possibility of record flooding this spring, the city wanted to take an opportunity to remind property owners located in the floodplain of available resources, their flood risk, and ways to protect themselves and their property in the event flooding occurs.

Two informational meetings are being held for property owners who may have questions about their flood risk, the city's flood plan, and the probabilistic forecast for flooding this spring.

Thursday, March 28th - 6:00 PM
Police Department Community Rm
416 N Harrison St

Saturday, March 30th – 10:00 AM
Roosevelt Community Center
1220 Minnie Ave

Because your property is at an elevated risk of flooding, here are some things you can do to protect yourself and your home from flood damage:

1. Stay connected. Sign-up to receive text, phone and e-mail notifications and updates on flooding and other city services and events by signing up for alerts at www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/davenportdirect. The most reliable way to find out about the availability of sand and sandbags, and other flood related items is by signing up to receive notifications. Please call 563.326.7923 if you do not have access to sign-up on-line; staff can with signing up for phone notifications.
2. Become informed. Visit www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/flood for useful links and resources on flood insurance, understanding your flood hazard, construction regulations, and more.
3. Know that no flood barrier is guaranteed.
4. Prepare for flooding.
 - Read and know the flood safety guidance on the last page of this letter. Additional tips, information and resources can be found in the enclosed emergency preparedness booklet.
 - Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house.
 - Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go to if you are required, or decide to evacuate. Know that most evacuations due to flooding will be voluntary unless public safety officials deem the event as highly certain to threaten life.
 - Make a household inventory, especially of basement contents.

- Remove items from the basement or elevate them as high as you can if a chance for floods is in the forecast.
 - Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc. in a safe place.
 - Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc. in a handy place.
 - Develop a disaster response plan. Find plan resources in the enclosed, or visit the Red Cross website for a copy of the brochure “Your Family Disaster Plan”, <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan>.
 - Get a copy of “Repairing Your Flooded Home” from the Red Cross website, or find other resources at cityofdavenportiowa.com/flood.
5. Consider some permanent flood protection measures.
- Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to floodable areas. Turning off the power to the basement can reduce property damage and save lives.
 - Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
 - Check your home for water entry points. These can be basement windows, the basement stairwell, doors, and dryer vents. These can be protected with low walls or temporary shields.
 - Install a floor drain plug, standpipe, overhead sewer, or sewer backup valve/backflow preventer to prevent sewer backup.
 - Check out the “Homeowner’s Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding” at <http://www.madcad.com/media/fema/FEMA-L235-2009.pdf>.
 - Build responsibly by getting a permit before you fill or construct in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Be aware some flood protection measures require a building permit, and some do not. Contact the Building Department at 563-326-7745 before making improvements to your home or property.
6. Get a flood insurance policy.
- Homeowner’s insurance policies do not cover damage from floods; however, because our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. Because the community participates in the Community Rating System, you will receive a 10% reduction in the insurance premium. Areas not mapped in the Special Flood Hazard Area, may qualify for a lower cost Preferred Risk policy.
 - Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building’s structure and not the contents. There is often more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Consider purchasing coverage on building contents in addition to coverage of the structure.
 - Don’t wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.
 - Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact us at 563-326-7923.

Sincerely,
City of Davenport Flood Team

Important Things to Know about Flood Debris Collection and Disposal

If you experience a flood, be aware the County Health Department, in cooperation with the American Red Cross of the Quad Cities, will have cleanup kits available. Kits generally consist of a 5-gallon bucket, mop(s), broom, brush, sponge, gloves, bags, bleach and other helpful cleaning supplies.

Before you start the cleanup process, be sure to review the recovery steps provided in the enclosed emergency preparedness and recovery guide, pages 38 through 43.

Because the City and County must comply with certain flood debris disposal regulations, when it is time to dispose of debris, you will need to place the material for collection as follows:

Separate all normal household waste from flood debris when placing at the curb for collection.

Debris must be separated into the following categories:

- *Electronics*
- *Large Appliances*
- *Vegetative Debris*
- *Household Waste/Garbage* (food, packaging, etc.)
- *Furniture and Furnishings*. Consult the guide for additional placement guidance.
- *Household Hazardous Waste*, such as oil, batteries, pesticides, cleaners, and paints should be kept in their original containers and transported to avoid breakage. Drop the items off at the Waste Commission of Scott County's Household Hazardous Materials Facility, located at 5640 Carey Ave, Davenport, IA. For more information call 563.386.9575, or visit the website <http://www.wastecom.com/Content/Facilities/Household-Hazardous-Material.aspx>.

Do Not Block the Roadway with debris when placing for collection.

Flood Safety

Outdoors

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number-one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there before you go through an area where the water is not flowing.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. A car can lose control or stall in as little as 6 inches of water. Turn around, don't drown.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water.

Indoors

Turn off your electricity if your building is flooded. If you don't feel safe doing this, call an electrician. Some appliances, such as television sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, dried and inspected by a professional.

Watch for animals. Small animals like rats and snakes that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn items over and scare away small animals.

Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been thoroughly aired out. If you have questions on gas, call MidAmerican Energy Company at (888) 427-5632.

Carbon monoxide exhaust kills. Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Fumes from charcoal are especially deadly — cook with charcoal outdoors.

Clean everything that got wet. Flood waters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Flood-damaged appliances, spoiled food and flooded cosmetics and medicines are health hazards. **When in doubt, throw them out.**