

## Where Can I Get More Information?

### Flood Insurance / Property Protection:

Your Insurance Agent  
National Flood Insurance Program,  
1-888-225-5356 or [www.fema.gov/nfip](http://www.fema.gov/nfip)

### Building and Floodplain Permits:

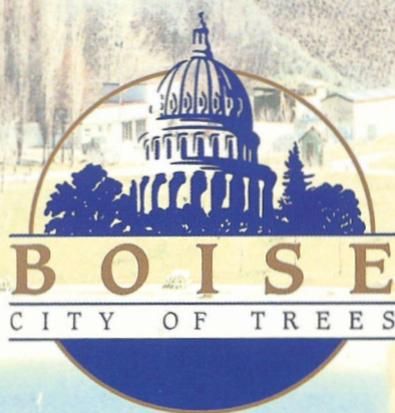
Ada County – Ada County Development  
Services, 362-2277  
Boise City – Boise City Planning and  
Development Services, 384-3800  
Eagle – Eagle Planning and Zoning, 939-6813  
Garden City – Garden City Planning and  
Zoning, 472-2900

### Flood Safety:

Ada City-County Emergency Management,  
377-6645. [www.accem.org](http://www.accem.org)

### Disaster Assistance:

Damage to roads or streets: Ada County  
Highway District.  
Gas leaks: Intermountain Gas Company.  
Downed power lines: Idaho Power Company.  
Structural damage to buildings that may be a  
hazard: Building Department/City Hall.  
Do not call 911 unless you have an emer-  
gency.



## ACCEN

Ada City-County  
Emergency Management

7200 Barrister Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83704  
(208) 377-6645  
[www.accem.org](http://www.accem.org)

# Are You Ready for the Flood?

## Do you live in the Boise River floodplain?

## KEEP YOUR FORESTS GREEN

## Are you aware of the risk of the Boise River flooding?

## Do you know what to do BEFORE a flood to protect your home and family?

If you answered "NO" to any  
of these questions read on  
and get FLOOD SMART!

## The Question About Flooding is Not If, But When

If you own property along the Boise River or one of its tributaries, you should be aware of and prepared for possible flooding. The three dams upstream from Boise - Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock and Lucky Peak - were only designed in part for flood control and only provide limited protection. Everyone should know that unusual weather events can result in flood flows that exceed the capacity of the dams and cause uncontrolled releases.

Flows in the Boise River are managed based on measurements at a gaging station in the Boise River at Glenwood Bridge. When flows at Glenwood Bridge are 6,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) the river is considered bank-full, while 7,000 cfs is flood stage. Flows at Glenwood Bridge have exceeded 6,500 cfs 16 times since 1954 when Lucky Peak Dam was complete. Minor flooding along the greenbelt can occur at flows as low as 4,200 cfs. Above 10,000 cfs, potential flood damages increase sharply. A tree or other obstruction that falls in the river can cause flooding higher than the base flood elevation and significant localized flooding even at lower flows.

No one can predict exactly when catastrophic floods will occur but attempts are made to manage the reservoirs to provide some flood control reserve, so public safety officials will know and be able to warn the public when the risk of a flood is high.

**"Buy Flood Insurance Soon"**

IdahoStatesman 1/27/97



February 9, 1997

## What is a 100-year flood?

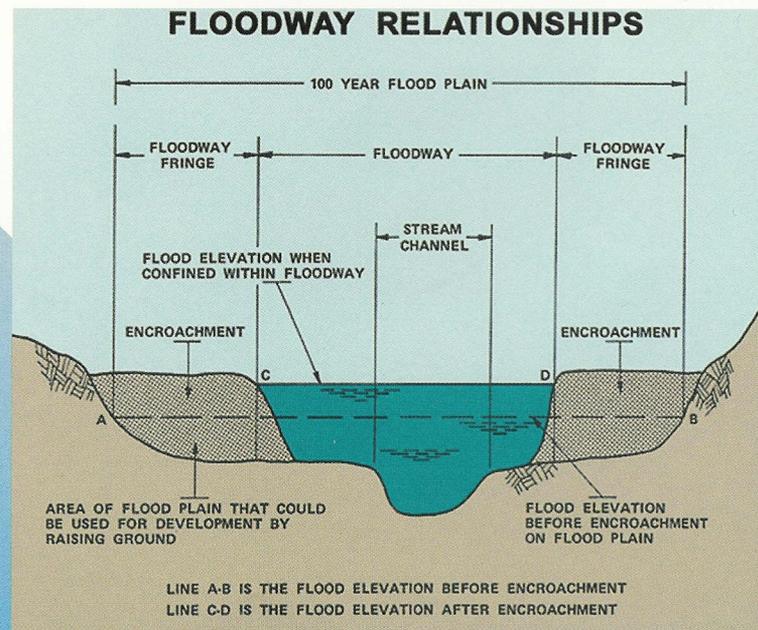
Water managers talk about floods in terms of how frequently a particular flow is likely to occur. Over a very long time, the 100-year flood will occur an average of once every 100 years. Another way to think about it is that the 100-year flood, which is projected to be 16,600 cfs for the Boise River, has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded each year. It is possible however, to get 100-year floods two years in a row.

## What are the Floodplain and Floodway?

The floodplain is that area of land that is projected to flood during a 100-year flood event. For properties in the 100-year floodplain, there is a 26% chance a 100-year flood will occur during a typical 30 year mortgage, and a 96% chance of a 10-year flood.

The floodway is the channel of a river or stream, plus any adjacent floodplain areas, that must be kept free of encroachment so that the 100-year flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights. Minimum Federal standards limit such increases to 1 foot, provided that hazardous water velocities are not produced. Permitted development in the floodplain may cause actual flooding from a 100-year event to be up to one foot higher than the 100-year flood elevation.

The location of the 100-year floodplain and the floodway are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps which are prepared using hydrologic models developed for calculating flood elevations and the extent of flooding. The best way to find out if your home is located in the 100-year floodplain is to call your insurance agent or the Building/Development Services section of your local City or County offices.



## How can I protect myself from flooding?

The **BEST PROTECTION** from flooding is the action you take **BEFORE** a flood to reduce potential injury and property damage.

### Flood Insurance

First, buy flood insurance. The National Flood Insurance Program was created by Congress in 1968 to provide flood insurance for people living in floodplains. Flood insurance is required for all structures in the 100-year floodplain when the lender is federally supervised, regulated or insured. Most lenders are federally insured or regulated, so it is very difficult to buy or build a residence in the floodplain without having to purchase flood insurance.

Flood insurance is also available for properties outside the designated floodplain. If you live near the 100-year floodplain, keep in mind that the floodplain maps are only an estimate of flood hazard areas. Nationally, over one quarter of all flood insurance claims come from areas designated as low risk. Use common sense to decide whether you need flood insurance, not the strict letter of the law. Your insurance agent can provide you with flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.

## How can I protect myself from flooding? - Continued.

You can also take other steps to protect your property from flood damage. Mitigation measures don't have to be expensive. If you live in a flood hazard area, there are many measures that you can take to reduce your risk from future flooding. Some examples include:

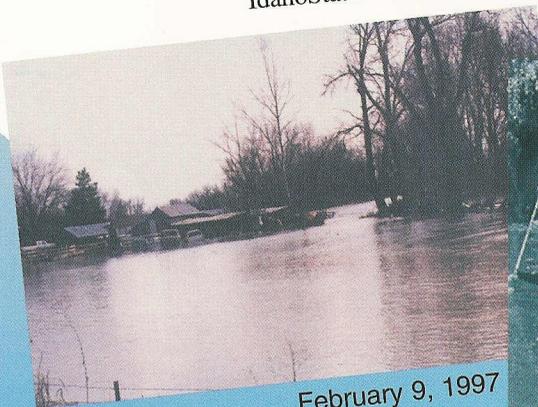
### Property Protection Measures

- Elevate or relocate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and washer/dryers.
- Install basement floor drains and keep them clear.
- Place interior floodwalls around utilities.
- Landscape to include exterior barriers to keep flood waters and debris away from your home.
- Install dry flood proofing to make walls and floors watertight.
- Modify the structure and relocate contents to limit damage when flooding occurs.
- Elevate your home (lowest floor) at least one foot above the base flood elevation.
- Locate new structures away from rivers, streams, and drainage ways.

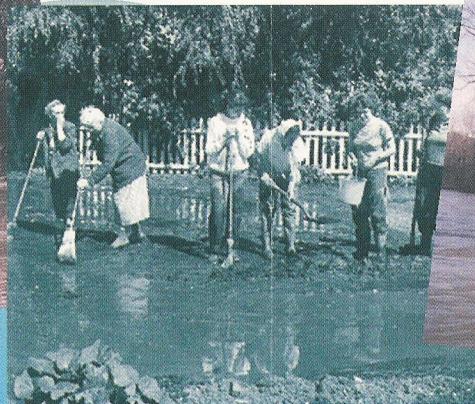
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has several publications that could help you. Check *Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding*, FEMA 312 for more details on flood proofing options. Your local public library also has several publications that provide more information about flood proofing.

## "Levee Breaks in Eagle"

IdahoStatesman 6/4/98



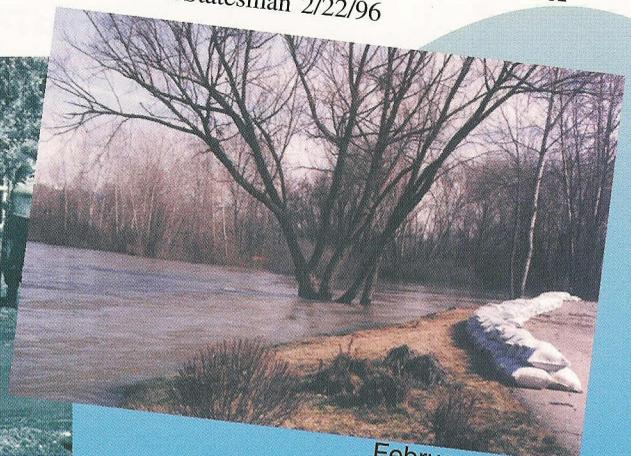
February 9, 1997



circa 1959

## "Few Near River Ready For Flood"

IdahoStatesman 2/22/96



February 9, 1997

## "Boise River Will Flood, But Nobody Knows When"

IdahoStatesman 11/94

## How can I protect myself from flooding? - Continued.

### Drainage System Maintenance

**T**reasure Valley has an extensive system of both public and private drains that take water away from homes to streams and the Boise River. Maintaining these systems is very important. Even minor obstructions can back up water and cause localized flooding. You can help by:

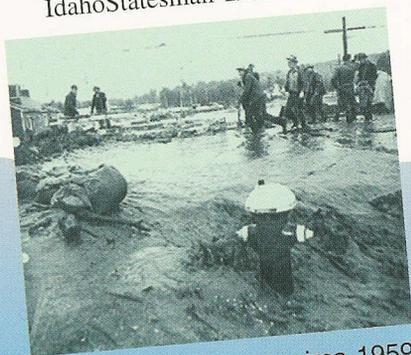
- Grading and landscaping your property to drain away from structures and toward the street or other maintained drainage facility.
- Keeping drainage ways on your property clear of debris, litter, and weeds.
- Reporting obstructions you observe to:  
Street drains - Ada County Highway District, 387-6325.  
Foothills Gulch Facilities (Cottonwood, Halls, Crane, and Sand Creeks) - Boise City Public Works, 384-3900.  
Area or subdivision drains - Check with your local drainage or irrigation district, or homeowners association.

### Floodplain Permits

**Y**ou must obtain a floodplain development permit from your local government before beginning any construction or development in the floodplain. Development is defined as any manmade change, including building, filling, grading, paving and excavation. Floodplain ordinances require that new development in the floodplain meet certain standards to protect both yourself and others. For example, new residential structures and additions in the floodplain are required to have the lowest floor elevated at least one foot above the elevation of the 100-year flood. With few exceptions, new development is not allowed in the floodway. You can call your city or county Planning/Development Services office for more information about permits and requirements for floodplain development.

### "Boise River Dams Wouldn't Stop A Big Flood"

IdahoStatesman 2/29/96



circa 1959

### "Boise River Spills Into Living Rooms"

IdahoStatesman 5/23/93



JUNE 1983

## What Should I Do When A Flood Occurs?

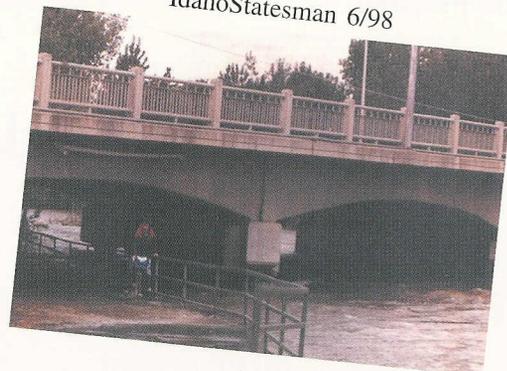
**I**f you live in a potential flood hazard area, there are some things you can do to decrease potential injury for you and your family. Develop a plan to deal with high water if it occurs.

- Know the flood warning procedures.
- Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees.
- Keep children away from flood waters, irrigation ditches, culverts and storm drains.
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Many people drown while trying to rescue their car.
- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire department.
- Shut off all electric circuits at the fuse panel or disconnect all electrical appliances. Shut off the water service and gas valves in your home.
- If forced or advised to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.

You can call Ada City-County Emergency Management at 377-6645 for more information about flood safety.

### "High Water Defies Flood Map"

IdahoStatesman 6/98



JUNE 1983