

Flood Insurance...

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides federally backed insurance coverage for any building in a community that is participating in the program. Franklin County is a participant in the NFIP. Almost every type of walled and roofed building can be insured. It does not matter if the building is in the floodplain or not.

The NFIP covers the following:

- Damage to building and contents caused by flooding (only up to covered amount).
- Costs of moving and storing your contents for up to 45 days (up to the amount of minimum deductible).
- Expenses for removing debris left by the flood.

The NFIP does not cover the following:

- Damaged cause by high groundwater, sewer backup, wind-driven rain or local drainage problems.
- Property located outside insurable building (ex: fences, outdoor swimming pools, driveways).
- Vehicles, trailers on wheels and boats.
- Paneling, carpeting, furniture and contents in a finished part of a basement.
- Money, valuable papers and land values.
- Living expenses and lost income.

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Police.....911
Fire.....911
Sheriff.....911
American Red Cross.....251-1443
Emergency Management.... 469-9700
Columbus Health.....645-7417
County Health.....462-3160
Nat'l Flood Insurance
Prgm..... 800-638-6620
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
Flood Plain Planning..... 265-6750
Poison Control.....228-1323

For More Information Contact:

**Emergency Management
Agency for Franklin County**
614/469-9700
emaafc@rrohio.com
www.emaafc.com



FLOODS



**Emergency Management
Agency for Franklin County**



Floods...

Every year flooding causes more property damage in the United States than any other type of natural disaster. In fact, over the past five years, Franklin County has received two Presidential Disaster Declaration and two Small Business Administration Declarations for flooding.

The county is exposed to two types of floods: those that affect the large or main waterways and those that affect small tributary streams. There are four main waterways that carry the bulk of the water through Franklin County: Alum Creek, Big Walnut Creek, the Olentangy River and the Scioto River. Although flooding occurs less frequently on these main waterways, when they do flood their damages are widespread. Mainstream flooding, historically, is more likely to occur during the winter or early spring season.

The more frequent type of flooding experienced in Franklin County is the flash flooding or urban small stream flooding that affects small tributary streams. Such floods are occurring with greater frequency due to the change over in land usage from agricultural and forestland to housing and paved streets.



Over the last century Franklin County has been hit with three major floods:

- **March 1898:** Second highest flood on record; damaged a large part of the Franklinton area of Columbus.
- **March 1913:** 7.9 inches of rain caused broken levees, millions and millions of dollars in damages occurred with in the state of Ohio.*
- **January 1959:** 4.23 inches of rain fell on already saturated ground over a 24-hour period. This flood exceeded the 1913 damage.

Franklin County is vulnerable to a flood at anytime. A floodwall is in the process of being built that will alleviate the majority of the flooding in the Franklinton area. This project is expected to be complete in 2003.



Watches and Warnings...

Flood: An over flow of a body of water that saturates normally dry land.

Flash Flood/Flood Watch: Flooding is possible in designated areas. Be on the watch and monitor local radio and television stations.

Flash Flood/ Flood Warning: Flooding had been reported. Take necessary precautions immediately.

Street & Urban Flooding...

When land is developed from fields or woodlands to streets and parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. During heavy down pours the rain has nowhere to go except the streets and people's basements. Run-off in an urban area is usually two to six times greater than that in an underdeveloped area.

If you come up to a flooded area, do not try to drive, walk or swim through it. Your best alternative is to turn around and go another route. Just six inches of swiftly moving water can knock you off your feet and it only takes two feet of water to float your car.

What can you do...

- Know if you're located in a flood plain or if your area is susceptible to flooding.
- Have a battery powered portable radio with extra batteries handy.
- Make sure flashlights are in working order and extra batteries are also available.
- Store clean drinking water in containers.
- Stock up on food that requires no cooking or refrigeration, such as; peanut butter, tuna, crackers, etc...
- Have a first aid kit.