

# Visit the Following Web Sites for More Details on Flooding:

- **County Flood Warning Systems**  
[http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ppg/floodplains.asp?nivel=foldmenu\(7\)#warn](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ppg/floodplains.asp?nivel=foldmenu(7)#warn)
- **FEMA Floodplain Maps of Prince George's County**  
<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ppg/pgmaps3.htm>
- **Known Floodprone Structures in Prince George's County**  
[http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ppg/floodplains.asp?nivel=foldmenu\(7\)#structure](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ppg/floodplains.asp?nivel=foldmenu(7)#structure)
- **Protect Your Property or Business from Disaster**  
<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/howto/index.shtm>
- **FEMA Flood Map Service Center, Online FEMA Flood Maps**  
<http://msc.fema.gov>
- **Facts about Flood Insurance**  
<http://www.floodsmart.gov>

## Important Numbers

Police, Fire and Rescue (Flood-Related Emergency) . . . . .	911
Department of Environmental Resources	
Flood Damage or Post-Flood Assistance . . . . .	(301) 883-3311
Stream Dumping or Water Quality Violations . . . . .	(301) 95-CLEAN (301) 952-5326
County Office of Emergency Management . . . . .	(301) 883-3300
Department of Public Works and Transportation	
Storm Drain Maintenance Division . . . . .	(301) 499-8520
FEMA Map Information Exchange . . . . .	Toll-free (877) 336-2627
American Red Cross of the National Capital Area	
Prince George's County Office . . . . .	24 HOURS (301) 559-8500

### Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources

Environmental Services Division  
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 610  
Largo, Maryland 20774

**PHONE:** (301) 883-5834

[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov)  
[DERcares@co.pg.md.us](mailto:DERcares@co.pg.md.us)

**Water Pollution Line:** (301) 95-CLEAN



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

# Flooding

## Can Happen No Matter Where You Live



**RUSHERN L. BAKER, III**  
County Executive

Photo Credit: Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA

# No Matter Where You Live...

## You Live in a Watershed and May Be at Risk of Flooding

You don't need to live near water to be at risk of flooding. Floods are caused by storms, melting snow, hurricanes and water backup due to inadequate or overloaded drainage systems and dam or levee failures. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the U.S. This brochure explains flood hazards, identifies measures Prince George's County has taken to protect lives and property from flood damage and suggests actions you, as a resident, can take to minimize your risk.

### Flood Hazards

There are two basic types of floods. Normally, during a flood, water slowly climbs over the edges of a stream or riverbed and spreads to the surrounding area. Flash floods, a more dangerous and fast-moving type of flood that generally occurs in our County, happen when a wall of water quickly sweeps over an area. This wall of water could be the result of a minor, seasonal storm or, on rare occasions, a hurricane.

Observing the slow rise of water combined with an area-wide flood warning usually gives residents adequate time to evacuate. However, the rainfall associated with flash flooding is so intense and fast moving, it is not as easy to predict when a flash flood will occur. Fortunately, Prince George's County has an automated flood warning system with the capability to call residents simultaneously if evacuation becomes necessary. In addition, the National Weather Service has Doppler radar that can track rainfall over very small areas. These tools help to provide more accurate flash flood warnings to people who may live near flood-prone areas.

Another common type of flooding that occurs in our County is localized flooding. The constant heavy

rainfall produces huge volumes of runoff that can overload drainage ways and back up into streets and low-lying areas. Homes and businesses can flood, especially in basements and first floors, leaving the community to cope with the problems that result. However, there are measures Prince George's County has taken to minimize flood risks throughout the County and steps you can take to protect your family, home or business.

Prince George's County has developed a nationally recognized floodplain management program that exceeds the minimum national regulatory standards. In exchange for adopting higher regulatory standards, Prince George's County residents and business owners receive discounted flood insurance premiums.

### Steps You Can Take to Protect Yourself

While new development is guided away from floodprone areas, Prince George's County has older neighborhoods built in flood risk areas. Here are some steps you and your family can take to protect yourself, your home and your financial future.

- Educate yourself about the flood risks in your area.
- Find a fast and safe route to higher ground from your home, place of work and school.
- Be aware of which transportation routes may be closed in case of flooding.
- Buy flood insurance. A homeowner's insurance policy does not cover flooding. You can obtain flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Your County is an active participant in the NFIP, which qualifies you for flood insurance.
- Be prepared to move valuables to upper floors or to safe ground.

- Take pictures of important possessions. If your home is damaged in a flood, documentation will help you in filing a flood insurance claim.
- Have a working sump pump. Buy and install a sump pump with a back-up generator.
- Keep the storm drains near your property free of debris. Trash, yard waste and other waste materials do not belong in storm drains and can slow the flow of water.
- Check your local weather conditions regularly or purchase and listen to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio.
- Have emergency/disaster supplies on hand. Food, bottled water, first-aid kit, medicine, battery-operated radio and flashlight, and extra batteries are a few of the needed supplies.
- Be safe. Don't walk through flowing water or drive through flooded areas. Also, keep away from any downed power lines.
- Visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site to find out more about preparing for floods, your flood risk, how to protect your home and property, and how to purchase flood insurance.

### What Can I Do?

Learn more about the local watershed. Call the County to determine if your property is located in a flood hazard area and for additional resources on flood preparedness, flood safety and flood insurance. If your home is flood prone, you can effectively prepare for possible flooding. The County is also available to assist the community with flooding, drainage, erosion and floodproofing techniques.