

Build Responsibly

Get a permit before you build - You must obtain a building permit for work in the 100-year floodplain. This includes new buildings, sheds, filling, and grading. Please contact the City at 620-654-3561 to discuss your project or come into the city offices at 208 S Main Street to apply for a permit.

Drainage System Maintenance

Keeping our streets free of debris can improve drainage throughout the city. Our streets and Galva Drain are the primary drainage system for our city. Keeping leaves and debris out of our streets helps prevent them from washing into Galva Drain. Per Ordinance 340 it is illegal to dump trash and debris in our waterways. To report illegal dumping call the City at 620-654-3561 if you see debris or dumping in the floodplain.

Substantial Improvement/ Damage

The NFIP requires that if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages, from a flood or other causes, exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (not including land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain standards. This typically means elevated the lowest floor of the building above the floodplain elevation.

Building improvements include exterior and interior remodeling, additions, and repairs to damage. Please Contact the City at 620-654-3561 to discuss your project.

Flood Safety

The following common-sense guidelines can help you stay safe during a flood:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around barriers.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocutation is the 2nd leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. if you smell gas, report it to the gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas.
- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
- Clean everything that has been wet. Floodwater will be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals which pose severe health threats.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.
- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.



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Flood Information

Flood Insurance

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent or go to FloodSmart.gov. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Federal flood insurance is only available in communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City is part of the NFIP. Our residents can obtain NFIP flood insurance. Additionally, because the city participates in FEMA's Community Rating System program, most federal flood insurance premiums are discounted.

Be sure to check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Your policy may only cover the building, but not the contents. Contents coverage can also be obtained by asking. There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage becomes effective. Plan, don't wait until a flood is predicted before purchasing a policy.

Our Flood Hazard

A regulatory floodplain has been designated along Galva Drain. You can see the maps online at FEMA's National Flood Hazard Viewer website. More accurate mapping was completed in 2013 using better topographic mapping and is shown to the right.

Galva Drain is subject to flash flooding but typically floods during periods of prolonged rain. It is important to keep the channel clear of debris and maintain the channel to prevent erosion. The latest flood was in 2010, where highwater lasted about 3 hours but did not overtop any roads.

Galva Drain also provides a corridor for wildlife and helps filter farm runoff. Floodplains also help slow the runoff and allow for infiltration of runoff into the ground and our groundwater.

Information on whether your property is in the floodplain can be obtained by coming into City Hall, calling us at 785-667-5595 or send an email to citgalva@hometelco.net.

Property Protection Measures

If your property is susceptible to flooding, there are many flood damage reduction measures you can employ:

- Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls to protect against low-level flooding.
- Utilities such as heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters and other major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.
- Temporary measures such as moving furniture and other valuables to higher floors or sandbagging exterior openings will also help.
- Elevating or relocation the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

