KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

516 Third Ave. Room 1200 • Seattle WA 98104
kingcountyfloodcontrol.org

WHY DID I RECEIVE THIS MAILER?

YOUR PROPERTY IS IN OR NEAR A FLOODPLAIN AND IS AT RISK OF FLOODING.

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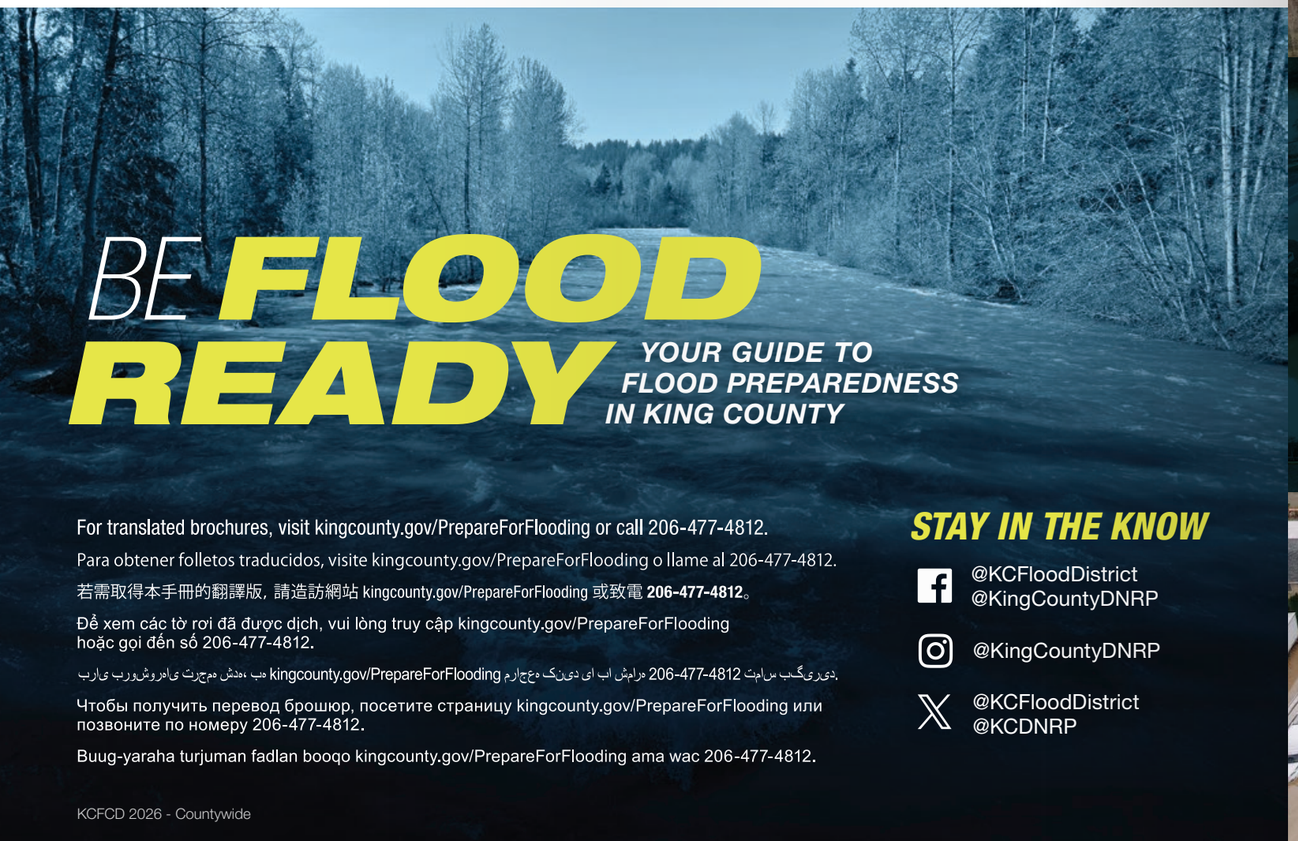


BE FLOOD READY

YOUR GUIDE TO FLOOD PREPAREDNESS IN KING COUNTY

For translated brochures, visit kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding or call 206-477-4812.

Para obtener folletos traducidos, visite kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding o llame al 206-477-4812.

若需取得本手冊的翻譯版，請造訪網站 kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding 或致電 **206-477-4812**。

Để xem các tờ rơi đã được dịch, vui lòng truy cập kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding hoặc gọi đến số 206-477-4812.

برای دریافت نسخه ترجمه شده، به kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding مراجعه کنید یا با شماره 206-477-4812 تماس بگیرید.

Чтобы получить перевод брошюр, посетите страницу kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding или позвоните по номеру 206-477-4812.

Buug-yaraha turjuman fadlan booqo kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding ama wac 206-477-4812.

STAY IN THE KNOW

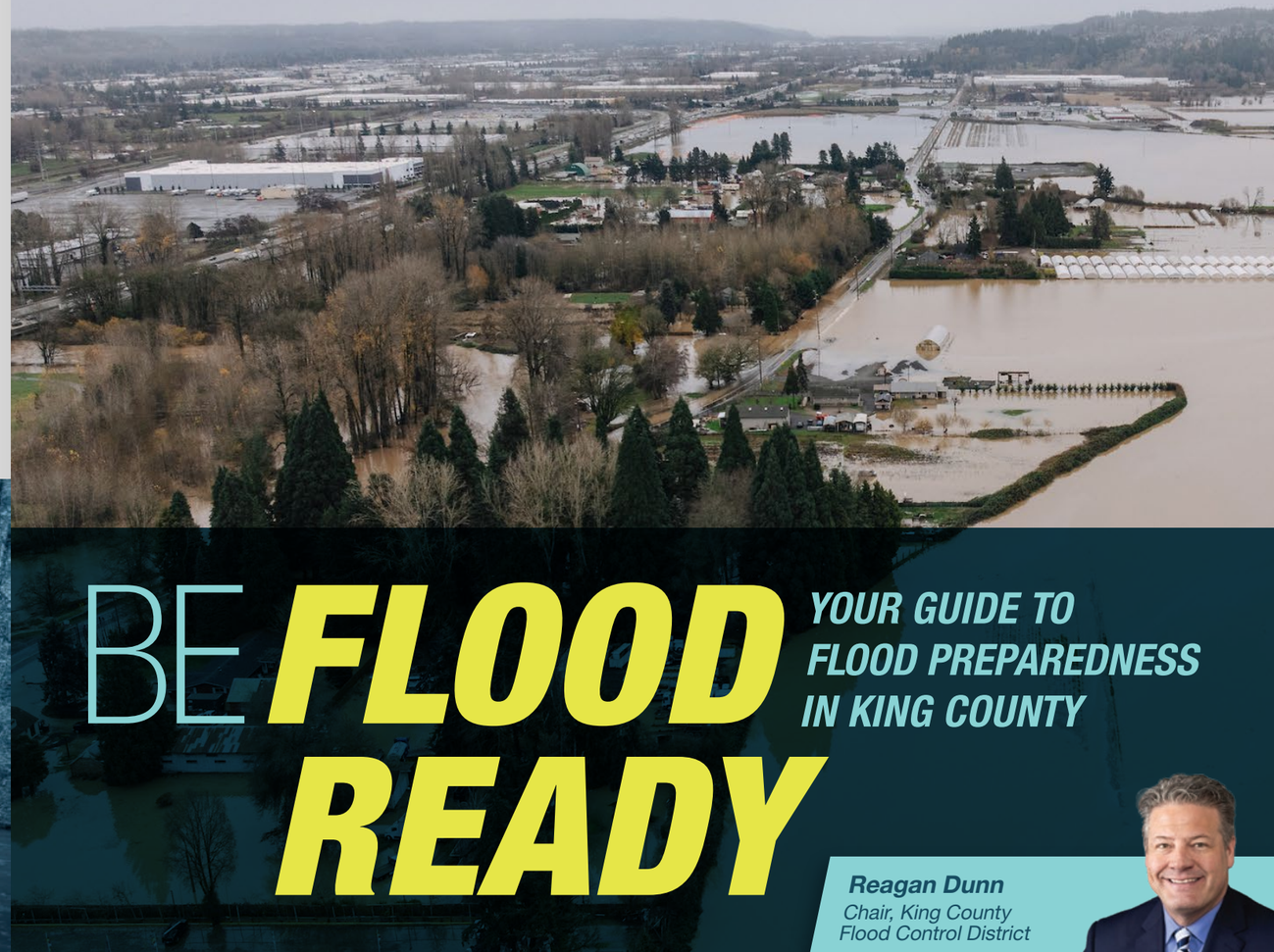
@KCFloodDistrict
@KingCountyDNRP

@KingCountyDNRP

@KCFloodDistrict
@KCDNRP

KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division



BE FLOOD READY

YOUR GUIDE TO FLOOD PREPAREDNESS IN KING COUNTY

Reagan Dunn
Chair, King County Flood Control District

Ready. Resilient. Together.

Green River flooding, December 2025. Credit: King County.

An emergency repair to the Cedar River Trail 3 Revetment is completed during December 2025 flooding

INVESTING IN **FLOOD RISK REDUCTION** *ACROSS KING COUNTY*

Flooding has always been a part of life in King County, but the 2025–2026 flood season reminded us of just how powerful and destructive our rivers can become. During the historic flooding from December 8 through December 30, 2025, several new flood records were set across our region. It was a generational flood event that tested our flood mitigation infrastructure, emergency response systems, and communities.

Yet despite the severity of the flooding, there was no loss of life from flooding in King County. That outcome reflects the dedication of emergency responders, local governments, residents, and decades of flood risk reduction work led by the King County Flood Control District (District).

Since its inception in 2007, the District has invested more than $623 million in flood risk reduction projects throughout King County. Those investments have supported the completion of 123 projects designed to help protect people, homes, businesses, roads, farmland, and public infrastructure from flooding. From levee improvements and revetment repairs to property buyouts, floodplain restoration, and home elevation projects, these efforts have strengthened our communities and reduced flood risks across the county.

Following the historic December 2025 flood, the District moved quickly to support emergency response and recovery efforts. In February 2026, the District approved nearly $3 million for emergency repairs completed during the flood event, along with an additional $7.3 million for urgent post-flood recovery work implemented between January and April. Then, in April, the District's Board of Supervisors approved a second supplemental budget adjustment of approximately $42.4 million for flood response costs, infrastructure repairs, property acquisitions, mitigation work, and other critical actions needed before the start of the 2026–2027 flood season.

These investments are essential because flood risk reduction is an ongoing commitment. The December 2025 flood damaged nearly 170 flood risk reduction facilities across King County, underscoring the importance of maintaining and improving the more than 500 flood risk reduction facilities that help protect our communities.

While the District continues working to mitigate flood risks, residents also play an important role in protecting themselves and their property. Every household should have an emergency preparedness plan, sign up for local emergency alerts, and stay informed about flood conditions during storm events. Residents should also keep drains and gutters clear, know evacuation routes, prepare emergency kits with essential supplies before flood season begins, and acquire flood insurance coverage—even if you're not required to purchase flood insurance because your property is outside of the 100-year floodplain.

Flooding can happen quickly, but preparation saves lives. The King County Flood Control District remains committed to building safer, more resilient communities while helping residents Be Flood Ready for future flood seasons.

Reagan Dunn, Supervisor
Flood Control District
King County Council, District 9

BE FLOOD READY: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

A few simple actions can make the difference between safety and loss in a flood. Keep this checklist easy to find, and share it with neighbors.

BEFORE A FLOOD

1. KNOW YOUR RISK

- Check whether your property is in a floodplain at **kingcounty.gov/FEMAmap**.

2. STAY INFORMED

- Download the **King County Flood Warning app** for near-real-time river and weather updates.
- Sign up for free text or email flood alerts at **kingcounty.gov/FloodAlerts**.
- Call the **Flood Warning Center** at **206-296-8200** or **800-945-9263** for the latest river and flood updates during major storms.

App, Flood Alerts, and more available at **kingcounty.gov/Flood**

3. GET FLOOD INSURANCE

- Standard property insurance does not cover flood damage.
- Policies can take 30 days to take effect.
- Visit **floodsmart.gov** or call **877-336-2627**.

4. PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

- Update your emergency plan and kit.
- Know your evacuation routes and practice them in advance.
- Identify an out-of-state contact for emergency check-ins.

5. SAFEGUARD YOUR PROPERTY

- Move vehicles, equipment, and valuables to higher ground.
- Anchor fuel tanks and store chemicals above flood levels.
- Install check valves in sewer traps to prevent backups.
- If heavy rain or flooding is forecast, place sandbags to block water from entering buildings.

DURING

1. TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

- Never drive or walk through floodwater—6 inches of water can knock you down, and 12 inches can carry away most cars.

2. FOLLOW EMERGENCY ALERTS

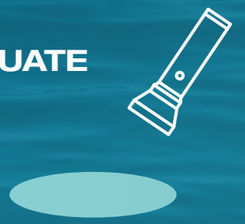
- Listen to local weather reports, emergency radio, or ALERT King County emergency notifications.
- Monitor media for evacuation orders and leave right away if told to do so.

3. SHUT OFF UTILITIES

- Turn off electricity, gas, and water at the main source only if you can do so safely.

4. IF YOU CAN'T SAFELY EVACUATE

- Call 911.
- Move to high ground with a flashlight and your mobile phone.



AFTER

1. WAIT FOR THE ALL-CLEAR

- Don't reenter your home or business until officials say it's safe.
- Floodwaters can hide structural damage, contamination, and electrical hazards.

2. CHECK YOUR UTILITIES

- Have a licensed professional inspect gas, water, and electrical systems before turning them back on.

3. CLEAN UP SAFELY

- Learn about safe cleanup methods at **kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding**.
- Always wear gloves, boots, and protective clothing.

4. DOCUMENT INFORMATION

- Record the high-water mark inside and outside your property.
- Take photos and video of all damage *before* starting repairs.
- Keep receipts for repairs and cleanup costs.
- Contact your insurance agent *as soon as possible*.

KING COUNTY USES PHASES TO REFLECT RIVER FLOOD CONDITIONS

FLOOD PHASES

THE HIGHER THE PHASE, THE MORE WATER IS FLOWING IN OUR RIVERS AND THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO EXPERIENCE FLOODING.

1 PREPARE

- No flooding typically occurs.
- King County staff are on alert.

2 MINOR

- Erosion, flood damage, and road closures are possible in some locations.
- King County Flood Warning Center opens.
- Staff are available 24 hours a day to help.

3 MODERATE

- Flooding of varied depth may occur.
- Multiple road closures, including arterials, are possible.
- The Flood Warning Center remains open.
- Flood Patrol staff visit flood-prone areas and inspect flood control structures.

4 SEVERE

- Extensive flooding with fast-moving water and debris.
- Widespread road closures throughout river valleys.
- The Flood Warning Center remains open.
- Flood Patrol increases frequency of inspections.
- Sustained saturation may weaken some levees. Flood conditions could change quickly.

Visit **flood.kingcounty.gov** for a detailed description of conditions at each flood phase for the South Fork Skykomish, Tolt, Snoqualmie, Cedar, Green, and White rivers and Issaquah Creek.

YOUR *FLOOD* & **EMERGENCY** KIT

Having these supplies ready in any emergency can make all the difference if you need to evacuate quickly or shelter in place. Store your kit in a waterproof bin or backpack you can grab in a hurry.

COMMUNICATION & POWER

- [ ] Fully charged cellphone with chargers and backup batteries/power bank
- [ ] Battery- or crank-operated radio and extra batteries
- [ ] Printed list of key contacts (family, friends, insurance, utilities)
- [ ] Flashlights or headlamps with extra batteries

HEALTH & SAFETY

- [ ] First aid kit (bandages, antiseptic wipes, pain relievers, gloves, scissors)
- [ ] Whistle to signal for help
- [ ] Prescription medicines (at least 7-day supply)
- [ ] Face masks (N95 or disposable)

FOOD & WATER

- [ ] At least 1 gallon of water per person per day (minimum 3 days!)
- [ ] Nonperishable food (ready-to-eat canned goods, protein bars, dried fruit)
- [ ] Non-electric can opener
- [ ] Food and water for your pets or livestock

DOCUMENTS & CASH

- [ ] Copies of important documents in a waterproof bag (ID, insurance, bank information, medical records)
- [ ] Credit cards and cash

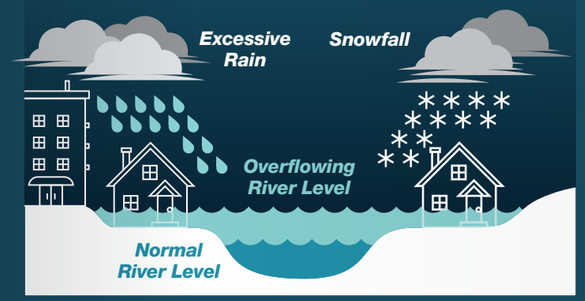
WARMTH, COMFORT, PERSONAL CARE

- [ ] Warm clothing and layers (include rain gear!)
- [ ] Sturdy shoes/boots
- [ ] Blankets or sleeping bags
- [ ] Soap and hand sanitizer
- [ ] Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies (toothbrush, toothpaste, moist towelettes, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper)
- [ ] Comfort items for children (blanket, books, toys)

TYPES OF *FLOODING* IN KING COUNTY

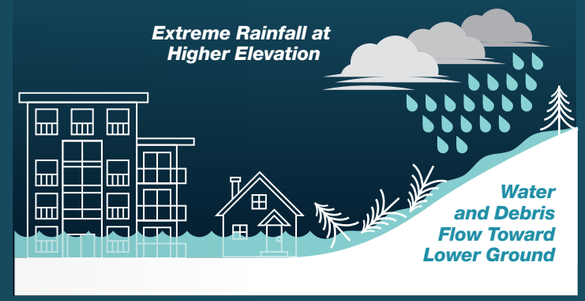
RIVER FLOODS

Heavy rain and melting snow cause rivers to rise, overflow, and erode their banks.



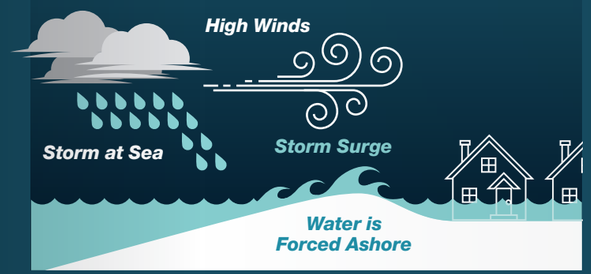
FLASH FLOODS

Sudden, intense rainfall in higher elevations sends water and debris rushing downhill, quickly flooding low-lying areas.



COASTAL FLOODS

Strong winds, storm surges, or exceptionally high tides flood coastal areas and force seawater inland.



URBAN FLOODS

Heavy rain overwhelms drainage systems, leading to water pooling on streets and around buildings.

Keep storm drains clear of debris so water can flow freely

PROTECT OUR FLOODPLAINS AND *YOUR COMMUNITY*

Healthy floodplains are nature's first line of defense against flooding. Building responsibly and caring for these areas helps keep people, property, and the environment safe. Here are two ways you can help:

1 BUILD SMART

- If your property is in a floodplain, you need a permit for almost any project.
- Repairs or improvements that cost more than 50% of your building's value must be elevated or flood-proofed to meet safety standards.
- Before you start a project, contact your local permitting agency or the **King County Department of Local Services, Permitting Division** at **206-296-6600** or **kingcounty.gov/permits**.

2 *KEEP FLOODPLAINS HEALTHY*

- Never dump waste, debris, or yard waste into storm drains, creeks, or rivers.
- Dispose of litter and pet waste in the trash.
- Sweep (don't hose!) sidewalks, driveways, and streets to prevent pollutants from washing into waterways.
- Keep storm drains clear so water can flow freely.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To Find Out if Your Property is Within a Floodplain
kingcounty.gov/FEMAmap or call 206-477-4812

KCFCD Flood Resources *kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/be-flood-ready*

King County Emergency Alert *kingcounty.gov/alert*

King County Emergency News Blog *kcemergency.com*

King County Flood Alerts 206-477-4899 • *kingcounty.gov/flood*

King County Flood Warning Center 206-296-8200 or 800-945-9263

King County Housing Repair Program
Funding for major necessary housing repairs for low-income, eligible homeowners
206-263-9095 • *kingcounty.gov/housingrepair*

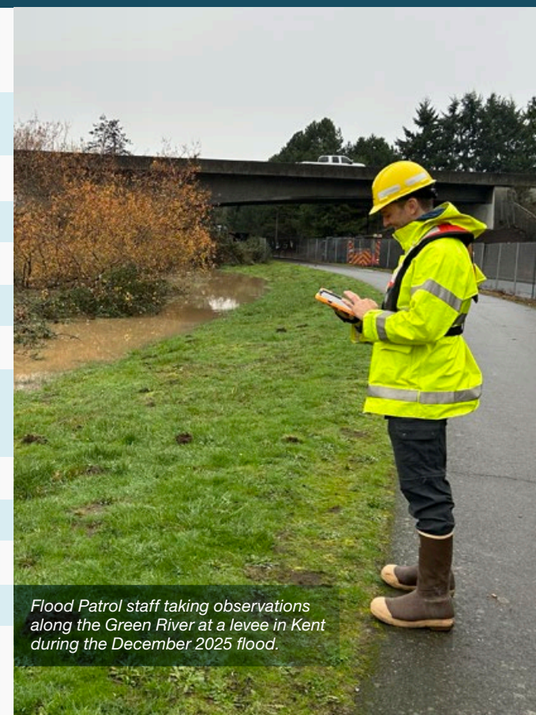
King County Road 24/7 Helpline 206-477-8100

King County Road Alerts *kingcounty.gov/roadalert*

Metro Transit Disruptions *kingcounty.gov/metro*

National Flood Insurance Program 877-336-2627 • *floodsmart.gov*

Public Health Seattle and King County Septic Tank and Well Problems 206-477-8050



Flood Patrol staff taking observations along the Green River at a levee in Kent during the December 2025 flood.