

REGIONAL FLOOD
CONTROL DISTRICT

HIDDEN DANGERS OF THE DESERT

REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT



www.regionalflood.org

600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Suite 300
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm
702.685.0000



Find us on Facebook or follow @RegionalFlood on Twitter.
Download our smartphone app, **FloodSpot** on iPhone or Android.



REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT



MISSION

The mission of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District is to improve the protection of life and property for existing residents, future residents and visitors from the impacts of flooding while also protecting the environment.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Brown, Chairman	Clark County
Mayor Debra March, Vice Chairman	City of Henderson
Chris Giunchigliani	Clark County
Mayor John Lee	City of North Las Vegas
Mayor Carolyn Goodman	City of Las Vegas
Mayor Rod Woodbury	City of Boulder City
Lois Tarkanian	City of Las Vegas
Dave Ballweg	City of Mesquite

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT 685-0000

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

Flood Zone Information	229-6541
Flood Control Projects or Construction	229-6541
Maintenance	229-6227
Civil Plan Review	229-6251

CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS

Flood Zone Information / Land Development	633-1200
Flood Control Projects or Construction	633-1220
Maintenance	633-1313

UNINCORPORATED CLARK COUNTY

Flood Zone Information, Projects or Construction	455-4600
Maintenance	455-7540
Development Services	455-3000

CITY OF HENDERSON

Flood Zone Information / Land Development	267-3680
Maintenance	267-3259

CITY OF BOULDER CITY

All Flood Control Inquiries / Maintenance	293-9200
---	----------

CITY OF MESQUITE

All Flood Control Inquiries / Maintenance	702-346-5295
---	--------------

GENERAL INFORMATION

American Red Cross	791-3311
FEMA Flood Maps	1-877-336-2627
National Flood Insurance Program	1-800-638-6620
Small Business Administration	338-6611
National Weather Service	263-9744
Weather Radio	162.5 AM
Illegal Dumping (Clark County Health District)	759-0600
Illegal Dumping after normal hours (answered 24 hours/day)	759-1000

*Recorded Message

FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

The District's creation was authorized by the state legislature in 1985 to develop a coordinated and comprehensive plan to solve flooding problems, develop regulations for land use in flood hazard areas and to fund and coordinate the construction of flood control facilities. The District coordinates with Clark County and the cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite and North Las Vegas. For more information about the District, log onto www.regionalflood.org.



STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Most of our rainwater travels untreated through gutters, storm drains, channels and washes, eventually flowing to Lake Mead. Local and regional storm drain systems are located throughout Clark County. Be aware of actions which may result in the pollution of our streams and water. For more information, visit www.lvstormwater.com. This brochure is produced by the Clark County Regional Flood Control District as a service to our community and for the entities within the District's service area. The brochure provides residents and visitors with important flood safety and insurance information as designated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) community outreach program.

BE FLOOD SAFE

The District launched a smartphone application called FloodSpot that allows users to get weather updates, see flood reports, share flood photos and learn about floods and insurance. The app also features a game aimed at younger audiences. FloodSpot is available for a free download on both iPhone and Android.



FLASH FLOOD SAFETY

Flash floods in Clark County are the result of high intensity, short duration thunderstorms typically occurring in the summer months. The months of July through September are considered flash flood season throughout Southern Nevada.

The Las Vegas Valley's average annual rainfall is approximately 4 inches. Even a small storm with little precipitation can produce dangerous flooding when the rain falls on the hard Las Vegas desert soil. Roadway low points can quickly fill with floodwater, trapping unsuspecting motorists. Dips, bridges and low areas are particularly prone to flooding and are not always visible at night.

Avoid areas that are already flooded and high velocity flow areas. Do not attempt to cross flowing washes. Be aware that a roadbed may not be intact under floodwater. Never drive through flooded roadways—turn around.

Children need to be warned about the dangers of floodwaters and dry washes, which can become raging rivers within

moments. Unstable wash and channel walls may cave in unexpectedly, or a sudden rise in water levels can trap a child. Stagnant water in washes can cause illness and disease. Even rainwater runoff along streets and curbs can expose children to unhealthy pollutants. Teach your child how to recognize the dangers associated with flash flooding. You can find materials to help inform your child on the District's website.

Flood related deaths can be avoided. You can lessen the dangers to your life, as well as to your family's, by understanding the dangers associated with flash flooding and knowing what immediate action to take.

If thunderstorms with the potential for flooding are apparent, the National Weather Service (NWS) may issue a Flash Flood Warning. Listen to your radio and television for reports about local flooding and areas of danger.

The rule for being safe in a flooding situation: Head for higher ground and stay away from floodwater. Avoid unnecessary travel.



FLASH FLOOD WATCH...
Means flooding may occur.
Watch out and beware.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING...
Means flooding is imminent or already happening. Stay inside and avoid unnecessary travel.

WEATHER INFORMATION SOURCES

Weather Information
263-9744

Weather Radio
162.5 AM

Weather Website

By connecting to the Clark County Regional Flood Control District's website at www.regionalflood.org, you may access current weather and rainfall information (click on Rainfall Maps).

Local Washes

Flooding most commonly occurs along major washes. Fatalities in Clark County from past floods have frequently occurred near those major washes. Washes are located throughout the Las Vegas Valley, Laughlin, the Moapa Valley and Mesquite.

These Natural Washes and their associated flood plains provide benefits as well. The Las Vegas Wash supports a wetland area that provides a habitat for rare and endangered species that are native to this area. The Wetlands Park helps protect the lower portion of the Las Vegas Wash and provides a special setting for nature enthusiasts.

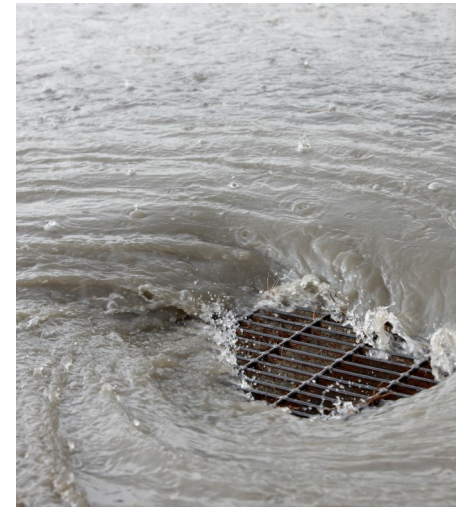


LOCAL SERVICES

- If you have questions or concerns regarding a specific wash anywhere in Clark County, call the District at 685-0000.
- Flood zone information, such as elevation certificates, is provided by the entity (City/County) where the property is located and may be obtained by calling the numbers found on the last page. Some entities charge a small fee for this service.
- The American Red Cross is a disaster relief organization dedicated to helping make individuals, families and communities safer by assisting them to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters. For more information, call 791-3311.
- The District's website, www.regionalflood.org, includes flood zone information. To determine if you live in a flood zone or what type of flood zone you live in, just type in your address or parcel number.
- Download the District's smartphone application, **FloodSpot**, to get important weather alerts and information to steer clear of flooded roadways.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Debris can cause runoff to be diverted around natural or designed water courses resulting in unexpected flooding. Dumping refrigerators, bathtubs, cars, couches, mattresses, concrete or landscaping materials in the desert and on vacant property is illegal as well as unsightly. Residential customers can take advantage of Republic Services heavy item pickup service. Call 735-5151 for more information.
- Washing your car at home can wash chemicals down storm drains. Wash cars at a commercial carwash, which filters and recycles rinse water.
- Use lawn and garden chemicals carefully by avoiding excess or unneeded applications. Fertilizers washed into Lake Mead can increase the growth of algae and reduce the amount of oxygen in the water. For more information, visit www.lvstormwater.com.



- Storm drain marking, which is identifying storm drains by marking them with signs, is an important public awareness activity to alert residents that dumping litter and hazardous materials into storm drains is harmful for the environment.
- Used automobile fluids, oil, paint, paint thinners, pesticides, pool chemicals and car batteries should be taken to a disposal site that accepts hazardous waste. Do not dump these items in the desert or into storm drains. One quart of motor oil can contaminate up to 250,000 gallons of water.
- Pet and animal waste can get into the drainage system and create unhealthy bacterial growth. Dispose of animal waste properly.



Report clogged storm drains and washes to the District by using the "Report Dumpers" feature on FloodSpot, calling 685-0000 or on www.regionalflood.org.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Do not dump or throw anything in to washes or drainage facilities. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and clog channels. A clogged channel cannot carry water and may cause flooding. Report clogged storm drains to the District at 685-0000.
- If your property is near a wash or channel, do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Each entity has a maintenance program which can help move major blockages.
- If you see dumping or debris in the washes or channels, contact the Regional Flood Control District at 685-0000.
- Always check with the local Building Department before you build on, alter, regrade or fill on your property. A permit may be required to ensure that projects do not cause flooding problems on other properties. Fines are assessed for illegal grading.
- Compliance with Uniform Regulations for the Control of Drainage ensures safe flow of floodwater through new developments. Finished floors must be set at a minimum of 18 inches above the calculated base flood elevation to meet local criteria.
- Substantial improvements to a building must be treated as a new building permitted accordingly. A substantial improvement is defined as an addition, alteration, repair or reconstruction project that exceeds 50 percent of the value of the existing building.
- Familiarize yourself with local flood hazards; plan for alternate travel routes in the event of a flood.
- If you know a flood is threatening your home or business, you should shut off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs. It is unlikely that you will get much warning, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance will help you ensure you don't forget anything.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires in the event of a flood. The number one flood killer is electrocution.
- Older homes can be retrofitted to meet current federal and local criteria. These techniques include elevating a building above flood levels, floodwalls, dry flood proofing, wet flood proofing and sewer back up protection. You can obtain more information on flood proofing or retrofitting your home at the Clark County Public Library or from your City/County Public Works Department.
- Flood Protection Assistance is available to all residents by the entities where the property is located. If you have flooding concerns or problems, please contact your local entity listed in this pamphlet under Important Telephone Numbers.
- Elevation certificates may be available at your local city/county jurisdiction, which may help to reduce flood insurance premiums.

MONITORING THE WEATHER

A Flood Threat Recognition System (FTRS) has been implemented by the District. The system includes a network of field stations strategically placed throughout Clark County. These stations report rainfall information, channel and detention basin depth and to base stations operated by the District and the National Weather Service (NWS). District staff monitors rainfall and flow data during storms and provides information to public works and safety crews. Advance warning provided by early detection is critical to saving lives. Residents can also view this information at www.regionalflood.org.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Flood prone areas have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all of Clark County. The maps produced by FEMA are known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and contain specific flood zone designations. These maps can be purchased directly from FEMA (1-877-336-2627), or seen at your local library, or City/County Public Works office.

Clark County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Flood Insurance is available to residents throughout the County regardless of the flood zone designation.

Standard homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damages caused by flooding. A separate policy must be purchased if this coverage is desired. When purchasing

Flood Insurance is available to everyone, whether they live in a flood zone or not.

flood insurance, verify if the policy covers the contents of your home as well as the structure itself.

Flood insurance is available through licensed insurance agents/brokers, or directly through the NFIP. For general information about the NFIP, call 1-888-CALL-FLOOD, or you may access information at www.fema.gov.

Always find out if property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area prior to purchasing a home, whether or not it is to be financed. Some local governmental agencies in Clark County will distribute information regarding the status of a property free of charge, others charge a small fee. Prior to closing on a home, the lender must secure a map determination on a Special Flood Hazard Disclosure Form (SFHDF), which is normally done by a private map Determination company. Purchasers often are not notified until days before close of escrow of a property's flood status. Don't be caught unaware: research prior to your purchase.

If your property is located in a high risk, 100-year flood zone, you must purchase flood insurance in most cases.