



BLOOMSBURG FLOOD AWARENESS

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS

MAINTAIN CLEAN DRAINAGE WAYS:

It is unlawful to dump or deposit any waste into any channel or drainageway (ord. #862). Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. A plugged channel cannot carry water and when it rains the water has to go somewhere. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding.

- You can do your part in helping the drainage system work. Sweep up your gutters to prevent blockages in the storm sewers. Pick up trash and fallen branches in the ditches.
- If you see accumulations or debris in the channels or debris in the channels or drainageways, contact Public Works Department at (570)-784-2300.

The Public Works department will be collecting yard waste at the curb during the third week in April (15th-19th) Acceptable items include leaves and garden residue. Rake items to the curb where they will be vacuumed. Collection schedule follows the street maintenance schedule.

The Compost Site opens for the season (weather permitting) on March 13th, 2024. The site is open every Wednesday (4pm-7pm) and Saturday (8am-2pm) until Thanksgiving. All access is from Sands St. The following items are acceptable: leaves, brush, branches up to 6 ft in length and 4 in. in diameter and garden residue.

WHAT THE TOWN IS DOING

- Participates in the National Flood Insurance Program Rating System- provides a flood insurance premium discount available to anyone (owner or renter) within the floodplain with NFIP insurance.
- Regulate Construction in the floodplain to assure compliance with flood ordinance.
- The Public Works department inspects and cleans the streets, channels, and drainage ways. Keeping them clear reduces the chances that blockages will cause flooding on adjacent properties.
- Purchased eleven Repetitive loss properties in the 900 block of west Main Street.
- Completed two home elevation projects through grant funding. Two additional homes pending.
- Active participant in the Columbia County Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted April 6, 2023.
- Participated in a regional stormwater study completed November 2020.
- Participating in Columbia County Fishing Creek Study.

FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES

- Kawneer Flood Wall
- Phase 1 Flood Wall: Oct. 11th, 2016- The Columbia County Flood Wall surrounding the Autoneum plant at the former Windsor Factory was officially dedicated.
- Phase 2 Flood Wall: Oct 7th, 2020- The Second phase of the flood wall protecting the Bloomsburg High & Middle School complex along with approximately 100 homes was dedicated.



DID YOU KNOW

1. Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster, causing billions of dollars in damage each year.
2. Homeowners and renters' insurance does not typically cover flood damage
3. Floods can happen anywhere. In fact, 98% of counties in the U.S. have experience a flood and more than 20% of all flood claims come from properties outside the high-risk flood zone.

This message is part of the Town of Bloomsburg's Flood Task Force Outreach Information. Bloomsburg participates in FEMA's CRS program and all federally backed insurance policies are offered at a discounted rate.



BLOOMSBURG FLOOD AWARENESS

**FLOODS ARE
PENNSYLVANIA'S
MOST COMMON
NATURAL DISASTER.**



DON'T TAKE A CHANCE

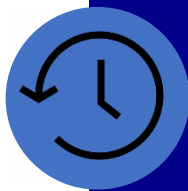
What are the chances it will flood where you live, work, and play?

Floods are not all the same and not created equal. Some floods develop slowly, while others, such as flash floods, can develop in just a few minutes and without visible signs of rain. Flash floods can actually occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure or sudden release of water held by an ice jam.

The most common type of flooding is overland flooding. Overland flooding typically occurs when waterways such as rivers or streams overflow their banks due to rainwater. It can also occur when rainfall or snowmelt exceeds the capacity of underground pipes or streets and drains designed to carry flood water from urban areas.

Areas more susceptible to flooding are low-lying areas, near water, behind a levee, or downstream from a dam. Even small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds, and the low-lying ground that isn't at regular risk for flooding can flood.

There are many steps you should take to prepare for floods. The first step is to know your risk. Since flooding can occur anywhere it rains, it is important to understand the weather where you live and work and how the weather could impact you and your loved ones.



KNOW THE PAST

The Town of Bloomsburg has experienced **4 floods** that were higher than the base flood (28ft). Tropical Storm Lee Sept. 2011 flood levels reached 32.75ft. In 1904, flood levels reached 32.7ft. Flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes in 1972 reached 31ft and in 2006 flood levels reached 28.8ft.



KNOW THE GAUGE

Flooding occurs in Bloomsburg when water levels at the Bloomsburg gauge reach **19ft**. The Town has recorded measurable flooding in 1975 (27.5ft), 2004 (27.1ft) and seven floods greater than 23ft occurred in 1979, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1993, 1996, and 2005. In March of 2011, a flood level of 22.57 was reached. Linked are the Susquehanna River Gauge & Fishing Creek Gauge.



KNOW THE RISK

See if your property is in the mapped floodplain and subject to overbank flooding by calling the Code Enforcement and Zoning Office at (570)-784-7123. Find out what past floods have done. Elevation Certificates for some properties are on file and available at Town Hall in the Code Enforcement Office. Visit floodsmart.gov for more information.



BLOOMSBURG FLOOD AWARENESS

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Permit Requirements: As require by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Code of Federal Regulations, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), 44 CFR PART 60.3 (a) (1), no work of any kind many begin in the special flood hazard area (SFHA) as designated on the Town's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) until a Floodplain Development Permit has been issued by the Floodplain Manger. The permit shall be for all "development" as written in the Town's floodplain ordinance.

8-802 Specific Definitions. "Development"

[Ord. 913, 8/11/2008, 8.01] Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate including, but not limited to, the construction, reconstruction, renovation, repair, expansion, or alteration of buildings or other structures; the placement of manufactured homes; streets and other paving; utilities; filling, grading, and excavation; mining, dredging, and drilling operations; storage of equipment or materials; and the subdivision of land.

The Town's Floodplain Development Permit requirement for the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is to ensure the following:

- Current Base Flood Elevations (BFE) do not rise as a result of ongoing development.
- All structures in floodplains and floodways are constructed using the most recent guidelines to reduce property damage, environmental hazards, and financial loss.
- Substantially damaged and or improved buildings are brought into compliance with the current standards.

Be sure to file a Floodplain Development permit before you commence with any work on your property. Forms are available on the Town's website www.bloomsburgpa.org/main/forms-documents/ under Code Department Forms. There are 2 forms a short and a long form which are dependent on the type of work to be done. If you have any questions contact the Code Enforcement Office at 570-784-7123 or stop in on the first floor of Town hall at 301 East 2nd Street.



BLOOMSBURG FLOOD AWARENESS



What is CRS?

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities. The goals of the CRS are to reduce flood damages to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

Bloomsburg is one of only 35 communities in Pennsylvania currently in the CRS program. Bloomsburg's community identification number 420339. This identification is important as it allows any insurance agent that sells federally backed flood insurance policies to automatically apply a discount to the policy. For more information visit bloomsburgpa.org

The Town of Bloomsburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Bloomsburg became part of the Community Rating System (CRS) in 1993.

How does this benefit Town residents?

The Communities classification is based upon the credit points calculation. Currently the Town of Bloomsburg is a **Class 7** in the CRS program, which **provides a 15% flood insurance policy** discount to anyone in the Town. This applies to only NFIP policies, not private insurance policies. Currently FEMA reports 228 NFIP backed flood insurance policies in the Town, the CRS discount to the Town residents is \$55,145.



DON'T WAIT for the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.



BLOOMSBURG FLOOD AWARENESS

Get a flood insurance policy- it will help pay for repairs after a flood and, in some cases, it will help pay the costs of elevating substantially damaged building.

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because our community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. In addition, you will receive a reduction in the insurance premium.

Some people have purchases flood insurance because it was required by the bank when you got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually, these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens in your area, there is usually more damage to furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Be sure you have contents coverage.

Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage. Also, if your property is not mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area, you may qualify for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy.



BLOOMSBURG FLOOD AWARENESS

STAY INFORMED

The Town has three emergency warning sirens with voice message capabilities. The sirens are located at the Town's Public Works facility on Catherine St, the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, and at the corner of West Pine Ave, & Leonard St.

- For the most up to date information on emergencies including flood events, follow the Bloomsburg Police Dept. on Facebook.
- Or keep informed with alerts and messages from Columbia County Emergency Management
- Linked to the right

Bloomsburg
Police Department
[Facebook](#)



Columbia County
Emergency
Management
[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)



FLOOD PREPAREDNESS GUIDELINES

BEFORE A FLOOD

- Buy Flood Insurance. There is a 30-day waiting period before a policy takes effect.
- Know the flood signals and procedures. The town has 3-voice command sirens.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Tune in to local radio station WHLM AM/FM, and local TV stations.
- Plan an escape route to higher ground. Move vehicles to a safe location on high ground before local roads are closed.
- Copy important documents (mortgage papers, deed, passport, etc.) Keep copies in your home and store originals in a secure place outside your home.
- Make an itemized list of other possessions such as clothing, books, and small kitchen appliances.

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

- Give your emergency contact info to your insurance agent, employer, and family.
- Put aside an emergency kit with a flashlight, battery powered radio, batteries, candles, and waterproof matches.
- Keep a minimum 3-day supply of nonperishable food and water.

DURING A FLOOD

- Turn off water, gas, and electric systems before leaving your home.
- DO not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon immediately.

- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Report downed power lines to PPL Utilities at 1-800-342-5775.
- Follow instructions by local officials, police, fire department, and other emergency workers.

AFTER A FLOOD

- Clean everything that got wet. Flood waters pick up sewage and chemicals.
- Take good care of yourself. It is tough on the body and the spirit.
- When returning to your home:
 - o Check exterior first for damage before entering.
 - o Do not strike a match or smoke in case of gas leak.
 - o Open windows and doors to circulate air.
 - o Take photos and call insurance agent.
 - o Do not turn on utilities until a qualified service person inspects.