

# DRAINAGE

## *Information on storm/water and flood control in the City of Scottsdale*

### FLOOD INSURANCE FACTS

- The City of Scottsdale offers free flood zone information through the "One Stop Shop." To find out if you live in a flood zone, call Records at 480-312-2356.
- Your regular homeowner's policy does not cover flood losses. Flood insurance is a separate policy. It is available to every resident in Scottsdale. Renters are eligible to purchase contents only flood insurance. Owners can purchase both building and contents coverage.
- If your mortgage is made or guaranteed by a federal agency (FHA, VA, or FDIC insured bank) and you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area, you are required to carry flood insurance.

### BE FLOOD SAFE

#### Before the flood:

- Make a record of all of your personal property. Move important paperwork to the upstairs or a safe deposit box. Take photos or video of all major items and keep them in a safe place. Plan ahead.
- If major flooding is predicted, fill bathtubs, sinks and jugs with clean water.
- Turn off electricity and gas, and find a flashlight and battery-operated radio if you expect your house to get wet during a flood.
- Get sand bags and sand from a home improvement store to have on hand to block doorways and openings.

#### During the flood:

- Be prepared to evacuate before the water level reaches your property.
- Do not walk or drive through water. It only takes 6 inches of water to knock people off their feet. If a road is closed, find another route. Stay away from downed power lines.
- Listen to a battery operated radio for updates and information on the flooding situation.

#### After the flood:

- Check buildings for structural damage prior to entering.
- Take pictures of any damages before cleaning up.
- Throw out any food and medicine that have come in contact with floodwaters.

### THE LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

- The average annual precipitation is 7.5 inches.
- Major floods occurred in Scottsdale in 1943 (a 45 year storm), 1970 (a 70 year storm), 1972 (3 to 5 inches of rain fell in North Phoenix, normal June rainfall in 0.13 inches), 1980 (The Phoenix area was cut off and Scottsdale was cut in two due to flood waters), and in 1993.
- Major areas of flooding are Indian Bend Wash, Granite Reef area, areas behind the canals where there is ponding, and the alluvial fans North of the CAP (where there is shallow flooding with depths of 1 to 3 feet and velocities up to 8 feet per second).

### PROPERTY PROTECTION

- During construction, all homes and additions should be elevated and all ground should slope away from the building. Structures can be retrofitted to prevent flooding by elevating mechanical and electrical equipment. Door and window openings can be relocated to prevent water from entering the structure.
- If you currently have flooding problems, re-grading your yard could help. Redirecting the flow of water around your home and away from any openings can make a big difference. Ask for the city's guide, "Homeowner's Guide to Drainage."
- The City of Scottsdale will make a site visit to your property to offer flood protection advice plus historical information on flooding in the area. Call 480-312-7696. The city also has information on how to select a contractor and what to do if the work is not satisfactory.

*More on reverse . . .*

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### **NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

- By preserving drainage easements in their natural conditions, we are able to retain habitat where coyotes, rattlesnakes, and other desert animals live.
- There are numerous species of cactus and other vegetation that thrive in preserved natural drainage easements. These plants attract birds and butterflies to the area.
- Drainage easements and naturally maintained drainage corridors provide areas for water to flow and be contained reducing flooding to buildings and streets.

### **FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**

- The city has weather gages located throughout the city.
- The Maricopa County Flood Control District monitors the city's gages and works closely with the National Weather Service to issue advisories and alerts.
- For information, tune into your local television and radio stations to monitor the National Weather Service alerts.

### **PERMITS AND FLOODPLAINS**

- Always check with One Stop Shop before you build, alter, re-grade, or fill on your property. Call 480-312-2500 for permit and submittal requirements.
- A permit is needed to ensure that projects do not cause flooding problems on your property or your neighbor's. To report non-permitted structures or fills, call 480-312-2546.
- If the value of an addition, alteration or repair project exceeds 50 percent of the value of the existing building, then it must be treated like a new building and have its lowest floor elevated to meet City Ordinance.

### **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE...STORM DRAINS ARE FOR RAIN**

- Keep our drainage system clean. Do not throw garbage, grass clippings or shopping carts into the drainage system.
- Our drainage system consists of pipes, channels, roadways, inlets, catch basins and washes.
- Stormwater picks up pollutants such as oil, pet waste, pesticides, herbicides and other toxic chemicals from lawns and roadways. This water flows through washes and culverts -- much of it through the Indian Bend Wash and ultimately into the Salt River.
- Keeping channels and drainage structures free from debris and garbage will help keep the stormwater flowing. If the system clogs, water can back up causing flooding or be diverted to areas not protected from flooding. Do your part to keep fence openings and channels free from sediment and debris.
- Garbage and debris not only can be toxic to plants and animals but also takes away from the beauty of our city. Dumping in the city's drainage ways is also illegal (City Ordinance) and can be punishable by fines. Please report illegal dumping or debris in channels or washes at 480-312-2546.
- Swimming Pools: backwash pools into landscaping on your own property -- not into the street or washes.
- Animal Waste: bag and tie all animal waste and place in your black trash container.
- Hazardous Waste: properly dispose of hazardous waste including paint, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil and antifreeze. If you need more information call 480-312-5600, or visit [www.1800cleanup.org](http://www.1800cleanup.org).

### **WET CROSSINGS - BEWARE**

Most flood related deaths occur in motor vehicles. Numerous wet roadway crossings exist within Scottsdale. These are areas where water flows over the road rather than under it. Do **not** attempt to cross roads where water is running. Turn around and find an alternate route. If your car stalls in floodwater, abandon it immediately and head for high ground on foot.