

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE RISK TO PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

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DISTRIBUTED BY THE
BOROUGH OF LEWISTOWN, PA

FLOOD HAZARD

In the Borough of Lewistown the record of floods extends back for at least 100 years, with major floods occurring in 1889, 1936, 1946, 1972, 1975, 1996 and 2004. The Juniata River and the Kishacoquillas Creek are the major source of flooding.

ON THE AVERAGE A MAJOR FLOOD HAS OCCURRED ONCE EVERY GENERATION

FLOOD WARNING

Flood warning systems in the Borough are organized with many different agency's involved. The National Weather Service Regional Flood Warning Center at State College, PA, provides river forecasts. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Mifflin County Office of Emergency Management monitor rainfall and stream levels throughout the Kishacoquillas Creek area, and provide the early warnings on this creek system. Flood forecasts and warnings are relayed from Mifflin County to Lewistown Borough. When flood conditions are present it is recommended that all residents listen to radio stations WMRF 95.9 FM, WCHX 105.5 FM, WVNW 96.7 FM, WKVA 920 AM, WIEZ 620 AM, or Comcast TV Channel 11 for local weather, flood warning statements or for instructions.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Lewistown Borough operates a street department which is responsible for inspection, maintaining and cleaning streams, ditches and drainageways. The purpose of this program is to reduce the chance of a local heavy rainstorm causing severe flood damage to roads, homes and other property.

The drainage system maintenance program is an important part of reducing flood risks in the Borough. A substantial part of the annual budget is devoted to these projects each year. Individuals can assist in carrying out this effort by refraining from dumping trash, lawn clippings, tree limbs or branches and other material in ditches or streams.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

A section of the Mifflin County Library has been designated where there is a collection of information about flooding, flood insurance, and flood warning systems. Ask for flood information section of the Library at 123 N. Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA.

**** SPECIAL NOTICE ****

YOUR PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN OR NEAR AN AREA THAT
IS SUBJECT TO THE 100 YEAR FLOOD OCCURRENCE
IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU PURCHASE FLOOD
INSURANCE TO REDUCE YOUR RISK.

FLOOD SAFETY

There are actions which you can take to reduce flood damage:

1. Know flood warnings and procedures. The fire siren will be used to warn of impending danger. Plan escape routes to high ground.
2. Turn off water, gas and electric systems before leaving your home. Open windows in basements and lower floors from the top to allow trapped air or water in the top part of the room to freely escape without putting pressure on floors or walls.
3. Be cautious about electrified water in the basement. Many people have been electrocuted while there.
4. When a flood warning is issued move vehicles to safe locations on higher ground before local roads are closed. Do not attempt to cross a flooded stream on foot or by car.
5. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storage ways or drains.
6. Be especially cautious at night.
7. Follow instruction by local officials, police, fire department and other emergency workers when instructed to evacuate.
8. Flood warning in Lewistown usually gives more than 12 hours of warning. This allows time to move flood damageable property. Work with your neighbors to move items to higher levels in your home to safe areas.

WHAT ABOUT BUILDING IN THE FLOODPLAIN

The Borough has enacted zoning ordinances which control building in the floodplain. If your property is located in or near the 100 year flood zone (the dark shaded area on the map) you may be required to adhere to these regulations. Prior to receiving a building permit, an elevation certificate must be completed by an engineer or registered surveyor which shows that your building will be shown in the Flood Insurance Rate Map are 1½ feet above the base flood elevation or 100 year flood level at your location and you meet requirements for protecting your building foundation. Contact the Lewistown Borough Office at 2 E. Third St., Lewistown, PA (717) 242-1145.

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

It is possible to protect your home or business from low level flooding (2 to 2½ feet deep) through methods of keeping flood waters out of the building (FLOOD PROOFING). To determine the feasibility of flood proofing it is recommended that the services of a competent architectural firm be contacted to determine your individual needs. However, buildings with basements, or where floods are more than 2 to 2½ feet deep, more flood damage may occur from collapsed floors and walls than when flood waters are allowed to enter.

Property owners susceptible to flooding from sewer line surcharging should consider installing back flow prevention devices on their sewer lines to help prevent water from entering the basement.

FLOOD INSURANCE

The Borough of Lewistown participates in the National Flood Insurance program. All buildings in the Borough are eligible for the purchase of flood insurance. In order to obtain financing to buy, build or improve property located in the flood hazard area, FLOOD INSURANCE MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW. To learn more about flood insurance contact your local insurance agent. If you rent, you are eligible for flood insurance for the contents of the building. If you own a building which you rent to others you can purchase flood insurance for the building without contents coverage.

The Flood Insurance Rate Map shows where the 100 year flood areas (darkest shaded area on the map) of the Borough are located. The 100 year flood area has about a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year. Put another way, it has about 25% chance of being flooded over the life of a 30 year mortgage. Smaller floods may have a greater chance of occurring in any given year. Also, larger floods as with Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, and the floods of 1936 can and do occur. Just because your home has not experienced flood damage since you owned it does not mean you are safe from floods.

The Borough of Lewistown provides a service to help identify property that is located in the flood hazard area. To find out more about this service call (717) 242-1145 or visit Borough Offices at 2 E. Third St., Lewistown, PA.

LOW INTEREST RATE LOANS

Property owners could consider low interest rate loans for flood proofing their property. To find out more about this contact local lending agencies.

