



Flooding

Water flows from the upper reaches of watersheds into lowland floodplains. This natural process provides fish habitat, fertile soils, and recreation opportunities. During times of heavy rains or significant snowmelt the ability of our rivers and

streams to store water is sometimes exceeded, causing floods in developed areas. Loss of wetlands and floodplains, along with increased development, may further exacerbate flooding.

What's My Risk?

Many people think that if they do not live near a river or coast they are free from flooding danger – not true. Flooding is the nation's number one natural disaster, and it occurs inland and on the coast. Flash floods, urban flooding and seasonal flooding impact every region of the country. Follow the links below to learn more about your flood risk.

[Flood Map Service Center](#)

[Alaska](#) [Oregon](#)

[Washington](#) [Idaho](#)

What Can I Do?

- Contact your local government about your flood reduction opportunities
- Maintain proper water runoff and improve lot grading
- Seal your foundation and basement walls
- Elevate utilities and service equipment
- Install flood openings
- Consider elevating your home
- Make an emergency kit, plan evacuation routes, and keep important papers in a safe and waterproof place

Case Study

The City of Portland, Oregon, implemented a series of flood reduction projects on Johnson Creek. The most troublesome section caused repetitive flood damage and traffic nightmares. Creation of the Foster Floodplain Natural Area through the removal of approximately 195,700 cubic yards of soil created 120 acre-feet of new flood storage, improved flow conditions and enhanced habitat for fish and wildlife. Learn more at:

www.fema.gov



What was once a regularly flooded neighborhood is now a beautiful natural space for recreation and floodwater storage.

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Week 1: Earthquakes

Week 2: Tsunami

Week 3: Flooding

Week 4: Wildfires

MITIGATION
MARCH



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