

Flood Preparedness – City of Anoka



Photo of Rum River at the dam behind Anoka City Hall on April 9, 1997. In 1997 the Mississippi River reached 840.5 feet as measured at gauge C at Peninsula Point Park at the confluence of the Rum and Mississippi Rivers.

High Probability for Flooding this Spring 2011

By now you have likely heard about the increased risk of flooding along rivers and streams in Minnesota this Spring due to the heavy winter snowfall and projections of a wet Spring.

The most recently updated projections for the City of Anoka are that we have a strong chance of seeing river levels as high as in 1997. See information on this page and the National Weather Service website for details on the latest spring flood forecast. Indications are that properties along the Rum River and the Mississippi River are at the greatest risk for flooding, although melting patterns and spring precipitation could impact other low lying areas as well.

The City of Anoka does not certify whether properties are in or out of a flood zone. You can find FEMA flood maps online at msc.fema.gov.

Prepare Yourself and your Property for Potential Flooding

Being prepared for a flood can not only help keep your family safe, it can also help minimize potential flood damage and accelerate recovery efforts. Along with flood insurance, you can also protect yourself by safeguarding your home and possessions, developing a family emergency plan, and understanding your insurance policy.

Sandbagging:

The City of Anoka recently announced a Flood Fighting Material Assistance Program. Under this program, owners of property in the City of Anoka are provided with materials to assist them in protecting their Anoka properties from flooding.

The City of Anoka has purchased empty sandbags and extra sand that are available to citizens of Anoka to pick-up at the Anoka Public Works Garages located at 501 Pierce St., Anoka.

Call City of Anoka Public Works Department at 763-576-2700 to make an appointment to pick up empty sand bags and sand. Please bring a valid identification with you to show that you are a resident of the City of Anoka.

The City of Anoka has sand available for City of Anoka property owners to fill their bags. Property owners must fill and transport their own filled sandbags. Property owners must provide their own tools and supplies, such as shovels and gloves for use in filling sand bags.

Property owners are responsible for the disposal of sand and sandbags after the flood event is over.

The Army Corps of Engineers provides a [sandbagging guide](#) as well as YouTube videos about [sandbagging](#) and [pumping](#).

More information:

- [National Flood Insurance Program](#)
- [FEMA Map Service Center](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)
- <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>
- <http://www.insurance.mn.gov/>
- [National Weather Service](#)
- [NWS Spring Flood Outlook](#)
- [Xcel Energy Flood Safety](#)
- [MN DOC Home Inventory Tips and Tools](#)
- <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae626w.htm>
- [Army Corp of Engineers Sandbagging Guide](#)

Prepare Yourself Before a Flood

» [Before a Flood](#)

Your Family and Home

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety advises that Minnesotans who live in flood-prone areas should make a family plan and assemble an emergency kit before the waters rise. Please give some thought to personal steps you may want to take in the event we do experience flooding in Anoka and make the plans needed to protect your homes, businesses, and personal property in the event of flooding:

- Review insurance policies
- Prepare an inventory of items you have in your home
- Moving valuable items and documents to safe locations
- Obtaining sand bags, plastic sheeting, pumps, and sand

In order to protect properties in Anoka, the City recently announced a FLOOD FIGHTING MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Under this program, owners of property in Anoka are provided with materials for their assistance in order to protect their properties from flooding. Property owners are allowed to obtain empty sand bags and sand at no charge. These are available at the Anoka Public Works Garage 501 Pierce St., Anoka. Please call Anoka Public Works at 763-576-2700 to make an appointment to pick up empty bags and sand. Please bring a valid identification with you to show that you are a City of Anoka resident.

The City has sand available for Anoka property owners to fill their bags. Property owners must fill and transport their own filled sandbags. Property owners must provide their own tools and supplies, such as shovels and gloves for use in filling bags.

Property owners are responsible for the disposal of sand and sandbags after the flood event is over.

Good sources of flood preparation information include www.ready.gov and www.floodsmart.gov.

Xcel Energy offers [safety tips in the event of flooding](#).

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has some [Home Inventory Tips and Tools](#), including applications to assist you with creating an asset inventory.

The Minnesota Department of Health has provided [guidance on flood-related health concerns](#).

City, County, State

While the City of Anoka, Anoka County, and the State of Minnesota are making preparations to prevent flood damage, we cannot guarantee that available resources will be sufficient to protect all flood-prone property in Anoka. Since the use of City resources will be prioritized to protect City infrastructure, we encourage all property owners in potential flood areas to make plans needed to protect your homes, businesses, and personal property in the event of flooding. The City may be able to provide some supplies (empty bags and sand); however, we cannot guarantee the city will have the resources necessary to address all flooding problems.

Flood Insurance

We also suggest that you consider obtaining flood insurance if you don't already have it. The time to act is now, as there is typically a 30-day waiting period for policies to take effect. According to the most recent National Weather Service modeling, river cresting in our area is projected to occur mid-April. You can monitor projections that are available from the National Weather Service at www.crh.noaa.gov and their spring flood outlook at 1.usa.gov/dLL8MZ.

Here is an excerpt from the floodsmart.gov website:

Protect Yourself with Flood Insurance

Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Over the past 10 years, the average flood claim has amounted to over \$33,000. Flood insurance is the best way to protect you from devastating financial loss.

Flood insurance is available to homeowners, renters, condo owners/renters, and commercial owners/renters. Costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers, and the property's flood risk.

All policy forms provide coverage for buildings and contents. However, you might want to discuss insuring personal property with your agent, since contents coverage is optional. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy goes into effect. That means now is the best time to buy flood insurance.

Learn your risk, and find an agent, by taking Your Risk Profile. Visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information.

Last Updated on Tuesday, April 12, 2011