

## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

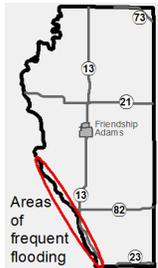
Many areas along the Wisconsin River are in the floodway or 100-year floodplain. Several inland streams also have floodplains.

Over half of the western part of Adams County is comprised of two 100-year floodplains.

Flash-flooding is the general type of flooding caused by the Wisconsin River. During a normal flood event, 2-4 inches of rain in a 3-4 hour time period jeopardizes the areas south of Castle Rock Dam, and much further downstream is affected within 8-10 hours.

Flooding on the upper northern portion of the Wisconsin River is normally a much slower event, and can be caused by rain north and west of us as it makes its way down the river for eventual discharge into Castle Rock Lake Flowage.

Various floods from the Wisconsin River have hit Adams County in both 2008 and 2010, causing many areas to flood along the Wisconsin River.



OFFICIAL MAPS: Based on studies by FEMA:

1. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels 55001C0006D through 55001C0500D and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) 55001CV000A both dated June 17, 2008.

Available for view in the Planning & Zoning Department

Information on whether your property is in the floodway or 100-year floodplain can be obtained by coming into the Adams County Planning and Zoning Department {608 339-4222}. Maps are available to look at as well as other flood-related information.

# ADAMS COUNTY FLOOD INFORMATION

## FLOOD SAFETY

The following common sense guidelines can help you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than any where else. Do not drive around barriers.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocutation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to a County official or your gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.
- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry unimaginable items that have dislodged themselves. Culverts may suck smaller people into them rendering them helpless.
- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water will be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals which pose severe health threats.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.
- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

## PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

If your property is susceptible to flooding, there are many flood damage reduction measures you can

employ.

- Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls to protect against low-level flooding.
- Utilities such as heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters and other major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.
- Temporary measures such as moving furniture and other valuables to higher floors or sandbagging exterior openings will also help.
- Elevating or relocating the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is only available to those participating communities in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Because of our floodplain management programs that attempt to protect us from the multiple flooding hazards, Adams County is part of the NFIP and thus, residents are able to obtain flood insurance. Additionally, because the Village participates in FEMA's CRS program, flood insurance premiums are discounted.

Be sure to check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Usually these policies cover the building structure, but not the contents. Contents coverage can also be obtained by asking. There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage becomes effective. Plan ahead; do not wait until a flood is predicted before purchasing flood insurance.

If you are building inside the floodplain, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory if using a federally regulated/insured bank for a loan.

## NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Floodplains play a valuable role in providing natural and beneficial functions to the area around. Floodplains that are relatively undisturbed provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. These

benefits provide aesthetic pleasure as well as function to provide active processes such as filtering nutrients. Areas along the Wisconsin River and other connecting streams are used as a means to filter farm chemical run-off so that these areas can maintain bio-diversity and ecosystem sustainability. Both floodplains contain historic and archeological sites that provide opportunity for education and study. Both enhance waterfowl, fish and other wildlife habitats and provide feeding/breeding grounds. And lastly, both floodplains provide natural erosion control and open space so further flooding damage does not occur.

#### **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

As simple as it may sound, simply keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as greatly reduce the occurrence blockage that significantly contributes to flooding. It is illegal to dump materials into a required waterway and violators may be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping or see debris in one of our watercourses, please contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 608 339-4222.

#### **FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**

Many times, flooding along the Wisconsin River within Adams County can be predicted in advance, giving ample warning for preparation and evacuation. However, in the event of a flash flood due a large rain event, you may be the first to notice the oncoming situation and have only hours to execute your plan. Should you observe an oncoming flood situation, Notify Adams County Emergency Management at 608 339-4248. The Village's Emergency Alert System will be activated. Tune your radio to WDKM – 106.1 for local and National Weather Service updates. You will also see regular interruption on local radio and television stations advising you of the situation.

#### **FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

All development within the 100-yr. floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) is required to obtain a Planning and Zoning Department Permit. Applications must be made prior to

doing any work in a floodplain area. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Department to receive all the information you will need in order to properly develop in the floodplain at 608 339-4222. You may report any illegal development activities to the above number as well.

#### **SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT/DAMAGE**

The NFIP requires that if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards. Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions and repair and reconstruction projects. Additionally, the cost of currently planned improvements will be added to the cost of previously made improvements and compared to the existing market value to determine if the improvements exceed 50% of the structure's value. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 608 339-4222 for further information.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you should require further or more detailed information regarding flood-related issues in Adams County, here are some additional sources:

- FEMA.gov website
- Adams County Planning and Zoning Dept.: 608339-4222
- P. O. Box 187
- 400 Main Street

Friendship, WI 53934  
- Adams County Public Library