



## Message from the Mayor

October 2016



Dear Resident:

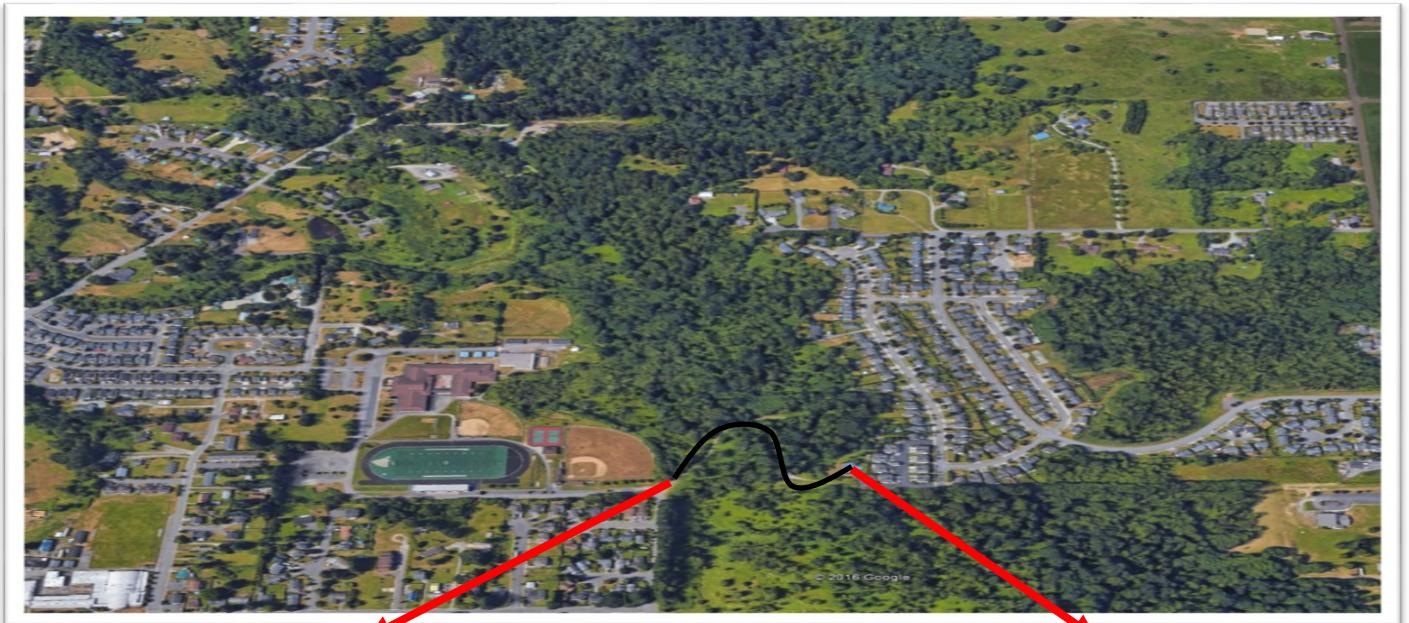
The articles in this newsletter are intended to provide valuable information on how to prepare, respond and protect your property and family from floods. This newsletter is just one of several publications available from the City designed to help you prepare for flooding.

The City of Sultan sits at the confluence of the Sultan and Skykomish Rivers. We also have the Wallace River as well as Wagley's and Winter's Creeks that flow through the eastside of Sultan. Sultan's location provides wonderful recreation opportunities, however, it also presents challenges when these rivers and creeks rise and overflow from their normal channels. About 30% of Sultan residents are located within the

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is the area where the NFIP's Floodplain Management Regulations must be enforced and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies.

The City of Sultan has experienced 8-flood events since January 2011, with 3-being severe or worse and 5-involving some flooding. The severe flooding was especially aggravated in 2015 with numerous floods in low lying areas. The remainder of 2016 and the year of 2017 is expected to see below-normal temperatures and slightly above normal precipitation in the Pacific Northwest. NOAA is predicting a La Niña, a slight cooling of the central Pacific. While the impact is often less severe than an El Nino, it shake up climates around the world changing rain and temperature patterns. It could result in more rain this winter for our area.

Flooding from the Sultan River occurs in the downtown and the residential area north and west of downtown. This flooding is generally calm water that rises and falls without exerting river current pressure on buildings. Flooding from the Skykomish River occurs in the Dyer and Skywall neighborhoods. This type of flooding can exert serious river flow pressure on buildings and cause severe damage to these structures. The City continues to take steps to improve public safety and emergency response time during storm events. However, individuals and families need to make their own preparedness plans. I urge you to take just three simple steps to protect yourself and family: 1) get an emergency kit; 2) make a plan; and 3) stay well informed.



Bottom of Evacuation Trail-End of 8th Street

### **ANNUAL EVACUATION DRILL INFORMATION**

Top of Evacuation Trail, South end of Loves Hill Drive

Each fall the City of Sultan, in cooperation with the Sultan School District and Fire District 5, plans an evacuation drill. The drill includes evacuation of over 900-students and faculty in all 3-schools in Sultan. This functional exercise is a training opportunity for new residents and employees as well as a refresher course for those who have been in the community for awhile. This year's event was held on September 28th. This is a great time to update your personal files and restock your Disaster Preparedness Kit with at least 3 days worth of supplies to sustain yourself, your family and your animals. **STAY ALERT!! BE PREPARED!!!**

# Flood Bulletin 2016

## High Water Mark Initiative & Updating of FEMA Flood Maps

The City of Sultan is excited to announce our participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) High Water Mark Initiative and hosting an Open Meeting to discuss the updated flood maps for Sultan, Startup, Gold Bar, Index and Monroe. **This meeting is planned for November/December 2016 and will be held at the Sultan High School Commons. You will be notified when the date is set. Please join us to see how the map changes may affect you.**

### HIGHWATER MARK INITIATIVE



#### What is the High Water Mark Initiative?

As part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the High Water Mark (HWM) Initiative is a community-based awareness program that increases local communities' awareness of flood risk and encourages action to mitigate that risk. As part of the project, communities post HWM signs in prominent places, hold a high-profile launch event to unveil the signs, conduct ongoing education to build local awareness of flood risk, and complete mitigation actions to build community resilience against future flooding.

#### What's the need for the HWM Initiative?

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States. Large storms such as Hurricanes Sandy and Ivan, as well as countless others, have ravaged American communities; costing billions a year in recovery, restoration, and rebuilding. However, less than one-third (30%) of respondents to FEMA's national Flood Risk Awareness Survey believed their community was at risk of flooding. To address this challenge, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partnered with over seven Federal agencies to create the HWM Initiative to help improve the public's awareness of flood risk and encourage communities to take long-term action to address this risk.

#### How Do HWM Projects Work?

HWM communities work in close partnership with FEMA and other Federal partners on a HWM Project. The project has two parts:

1. Build flood risk awareness through a HWM Launch Event and other communications and outreach efforts and
2. Reduce risk through mitigation actions that help protect the community from future flooding.

FEMA Headquarters staff administer the HWM Initiative with leadership support from FEMA staff in the Regions. FEMA Regional staff work closely with the community to plan and manage a HWM Launch Event and begin discussions on miti-

### SNOHOMISH COUNTY DFIRM STUDY TIMELINE

- \* Scoping Meeting—August 29, 2006
- \* Levee Certification from USACE Provided for Startup Levee-2007
- \* Preliminary Map Release—September 28, 2010
- \* CCO Meeting—October 19, 2010
- \* Public Open House Meetings:
  - \* Arlington—11/3/2010
  - \* Monroe—11/10/2010
- \* Appeal Period Start—2/12/2011 Finish—5/12/2011
- \* FEMA Letter to Senators on Levee Policy—March 2011
- \* Working through Levee Policy 2011 - 2015
- \* CCO Meeting—September 14, 2016
- \* Public open House Meetings - Nov/Dec 2016 — Location TBD
- \* Appeal Period Start—January 2017 - End April 2017
- \* FEMA issues "Letter of Final Determination (LFD)" - Fall 2017
- \* **Effective Date for New FEMA DFIRM Maps—Spring 2018**

#### Project History:

The State of Washington identified Snohomish County as a priority for FEMA's Risk MAP program. The State determines its priorities based on population at risk to hazards, recent events and community interest. FEMA, State and Local stakeholders participated in a Risk MAP Discovery Meeting held April 7, 2011 where community concerns were identified. These concerns were captured in the Risk MAP Discovery Report and delivered to the communities in the watershed. After the Discovery Meeting, community concerns were researched and analyzed, in order to develop a scope of work that includes multi-hazard risk assessment products and updates to the communities' regulatory flood maps based on community-identified resilience needs.

#### Next Steps:

STARR (FEMA's Consultant) is working towards completion of the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) products (coastal + seclusion areas) which will be released to your community for review by the end of April, 2016. Approximately one month after the release of the preliminary maps, a Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting will be scheduled by FEMA in order to present the preliminary products to the community officials. At this meeting, there will be discussion of how FEMA

## Your Homeowners Insurance does not cover Floods.....Federal Flood Insurance does

#### Why get Flood Insurance?

Homeowner's Insurance doesn't cover flood damage. Owners and Renters can get Flood Insurance.

#### Federal Disaster Assistance? It's not the answer either.

Why? Because in most cases, the only aid disaster victims may qualify for is a loan and that must be repaid—with interest!

#### Only Federal Flood Insurance covers flood damage to your property!

Residents who live within the City Limits of Sultan, qualify for Federal Flood Insurance. The City is a Class 6 Community in the NFIP Community Rating System Flood Program. You will receive a 20% discount if you are located in the SFHA and a 10% discount for property outside the SFHA. Flood insurance covers damage to your building and contents. Flood waters can damage walls, flooring, insulation, cabinetry, furniture, appliances and woodwork.

**Contact your local agent and NOW! There is a 30-day waiting period between sign-up and activation of your policy!!!**

# Flood Bulletin 2016

## Protect Your Household and Business— Steps You Can Take to Prepare for Flooding

It's important to be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. For more information read: Living with Dams <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28161>

### Step 1: Get a Kit

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, medications and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days. Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages. Keep the kit in a location that is easy to get to. A small emergency kit to keep in the car, is also a great idea.

### Step 2: Make a Plan and Prepare your Family

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency. Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood. The City and FEMA's websites have great information for communicating and making plans.

### Step 3: Be Informed

Check with the City to see if there is a Flood Elevation Certificate for your property and view the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for

**WEBSITE RESOURCES  
CHECK THEM OUT  
AND BE PREPARED**



<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/796/Flood-Information-Center>  
<http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/hazards/flood>  
<http://takewinterbystorm.org>  
<http://www.ready.gov/kids>  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Sign-Up for Local Alerts at:

<https://mystateusa.com/alertSignup.aspx?region=1159>

Sign up for weather alerts through the National Weather Service

[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

For an Agent Referral, call 888.435.6637 TDD 800.447.9487

<http://www.fema.gov/nfip>

## During a Flood: Important Phone Numbers To Know

### Emergency Services Information:

You may also contact the City of Sultan at 360.793.2231 OR 360.793.1262 for all the information below:

### Disaster Supply Kit Preparation/Information about the Flood Warning System

425.388.5060-Option #1 Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

[www.floods.surfacewater.info](http://www.floods.surfacewater.info)

### Floodplain Maps

360.793.2231 - City of Sultan

FEMA Map Center— <http://msc.fema.gov/portal>

### Information on Flood-Proofing and Flood Protection

800.621.3362 — Federal Emergency Management Agency

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

### Roads Commonly Flooded or Closed

425.388.3393 - Snohomish County Sheriffs Office

425.388.7500 - Snohomish County Surface Water Management

### Purchase Sand Bags

360.793.2372 — Ace Hardware

360.793.2682 — Barmon Lumber

### CERT TRAINING

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Classes Offered in Sultan at Fire District #5—304 Alder Avenue. Call 360.793.1179 for upcoming classes.

This program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our area and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

Learn about Fire Safety; Light Search & Rescue; Team Organization and Disaster Medi-

Find us on the web at: [www.ci.sultan.wa.us](http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us)  
Current Flood information is posted on the  
website during flood events



# Flood Bulletin 2016

## Turn Around, Don't Drown

Drowning in cars is an all too frequent flood hazard issue. Do not drive in flood water or around road barriers, the road or bridge may be washed out. As little as two feet of

## Emergency Media

During times of heavy rain and/or snow melt, please stay informed. Local radio and TV stations provide emergency information on the Emergency Broadcast System. For as little as \$30.00 you can get a NOAA weather radio. Enter "NOAA weather radio into your



## What is the Siren System

In case of an emergency, the City of Sultan in partnership with Snohomish PUD, Sultan School District, Snohomish County Fire District 5, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management have installed the four emergency warning sirens. The siren is tested every day at noon with a chime. In case of a real emergency, the warning siren has prerecorded voice messages giving instructions on what you should do. Flood warnings should be provided several hours prior to a dangerous situation. Contact City Hall at



## \*\*\*\*FLOOD SAFETY TIPS\*\*\*\*

**EVACUATION SAFETY:** Always obey official orders to evacuate for flood or other emergencies. Make sure all family members are accounted for. If you are stranded by deep water, communicate with cell phone and wait to be rescued.

**STORING YOUR DOCUMENTS:** Protect your important household papers, photos and personal items from damage by storing them in water-proof bags, containers. Store them off-site as in a security box at the bank.

**CLEAN EVERYTHING THAT WAS WET:** Floodwaters can pick up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories and storage buildings. Spoiled food, flooded cosmetics and medicine can be health hazards. *When in doubt, throw them out!*

**LOOK BEFORE YOU STEP:** After a flood, the ground and floors can be covered with debris, like broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery and dangerous.

**LOOK OUT FOR ANIMALS:** Wild small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over to scare away these small animals.

**CARBON MONOXIDE EXHAUST:** Generators and other gasoline powered equipment should be used outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Charcoal fumes are especially deadly.

**PROTECT UTILITY CONNECTIONS:** Electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters and washer and dryers should be elevated or relocated to a location less likely to flood.

**ELECTRICITY/NATURAL GAS:** Do not use appliances or motors that have been submerged in water unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and ventilated.

**BUILDING PROTECTION:** All building construction/repair and drainage work in floodplains require a Building Permit a Floodplain Development Permit and possibly a Biological Assessment. Permits are issued at City Hall, Planning Department 360.793.2231. If you suspect someone is working in your neighborhood without a permit, you can call Code Enforcement at 360.793.2262 to report the concern. Many of Sultan's buildings are in floodplains. Existing structures can be substantially protected against flood damage. Grants are available for some flood protection activities. Buildings are required to be elevated to 1.6 feet above flood level. Crawl spaces can be partially filled and vented to reduce water being trapped. Mechanical devices and some appliances such as water heaters can be elevated above the flood level. Buildings that are remodeled/upgraded or repaired to over 50% of their assessed value need to be brought fully up to building and flood code requirements. Permits are required for all construction and remodel activity. If you are not sure if you require a permit, call our Permit Department at 360.793.1099 to find out.

**INSTALL A BACKFLOW DEVICE:** Installing a backflow prevention device in your sewer connection and prevent floodwaters from entering your home. Installing a sump pump could help as well.

**INSTALL FLOOD SHIELDS/VENTS:** Flood shields for doors and openings, prevent water from entering your home. You can install basement floor drains and foundation vents to let the water escape.

**STREAM DRAINAGE:** Even a very small stream or dry creek bed can overflow and create flooding. Many drainage channels and culverts are improperly used for dumping debris. Check the retention or detention ponds, drainage ditches, culverts and creeks in your neighborhoods to make sure there is no garbage, toys, lawn chairs, etc. so the flow is not blocked off. Report any problems to the Public Works Department at 360.793.2262. Dumping of any kind in surface water channels is illegal.

**NATURAL AREAS:** City and state-owned parkland along the Sultan River provides a natural safety-valve for flood water. Public investment in these natural areas provides the benefit of flood water storage and habitat for salmon other creatures that inhabit these areas. Your support of this effort improves water quality in all the waterways in Sultan. Join the volunteers to clean our Parks with the Sultan Community Alliance Group. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 4:00pm - 5:30pm at 319 Main Street or call 360. 793.2231 for more infor-