



# KNOW YOUR RISK OF FLOODING



## Flood risk still exists!

Find out about the flood hazards on your property and ways you can protect it from flooding:

**Call the City of Tulsa  
Customer Care Center:**  
311 or (918) 596-7777

**Visit Us Online:**  
[www.cityoftulsa.org/floodcontrol](http://www.cityoftulsa.org/floodcontrol)  
[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)



City of Tulsa  
Engineering Services



**Floods are the number-one disaster in the United States.** Whether you live close to rivers and creeks or far from a body of water, everyone is at risk — wherever it can rain, it can flood. In fact, a home located in a high-risk flood area is more likely to be damaged by a flood than by a fire.

Tulsa has created an award-winning, comprehensive floodplain management program that is cited as a national model. Overall, the risk of flooding in Tulsa has been substantially reduced—but it's still important for you to **know the facts about flooding** and what you can do to prevent damage and risk to life.

Visit [Floodsmart.gov](http://Floodsmart.gov) to find out more about what you can do about your flood risk.



## Important Flood Preparation Tips

- **Have 3 ways to get watch & warning info**, including downloading the **Tulsa Ready** phone app.
- **Create a plan** to protect your business or home in case of flooding.
- **Keep photocopies of records**, inventory, insurance policies, deeds, automobile titles, credit card account numbers and other valuable papers at a location away from your house.
- **Get a building permit** when constructing in flood-prone areas or when installing safe rooms in flood prone areas.
- Keep water away from your house by **re-grading your lot. Use Low Impact Development (LID) techniques** to prevent or reduce flooding on your property.
- **Install check valves on sewer lines** to prevent back-ups into the house.
- **Keep emergency flood materials** like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergencies.
- **Keep storm drains cleared from debris** such as leaves and grass clippings. Clogged storm drains can cause flooding when it rains.
- **All storm sewer systems in Tulsa drain to the Arkansas River or Bird Creek.** To learn how to prevent water back-up, visit [tulsastreams.com](https://www.tulsastreams.com).



## How to Be Safe in a Flood

- Remember the phrase **“Turn Around, Don’t Drown”** and avoid driving through a flooded area.
- When seeking shelter during severe weather, **avoid flood-prone areas** such as culverts or drainage ditches.
- Flood waters can rise rapidly. **Be prepared to evacuate** before the water reaches your property.
- If you’re caught in the house by floodwater, **move to the second floor or to the roof.** Take warm clothing, a flashlight, and a mobile device and/or radio with you. Wait for help.
- **Don’t walk through flowing water!** Currents can be deceptive – 6 inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.
- When rising water from creeks, streams, or rivers is projected to threaten structures in the area, **outdoor warning sirens will be activated** – the warning will be an alternating high-low siren that lasts for three minutes and will repeat every 30 minutes for the duration of the flood risk.



## Recovering from a Flood

- **Report flooding** inside a building as soon as possible by calling the City of Tulsa’s Customer Care Center (311).
- **Before entering a flooded building**, check for structural damage and turn off outside gas lines to your meter. Let the building air out for several minutes before entering.
- **Watch for electrical shorts and live wires** while turning off the main power switch. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires – electricity can travel through water.
- **Cover broken windows and holes in the roof or walls** to prevent further weather damage.
- **Proceed with immediate cleanup measures** to reduce any health hazards. Take pictures of items being discarded and show them to the insurance appraiser for verification.
- City of Tulsa **building permits are required prior to making any repairs** to a flood damaged building.



## Important Facts About Flood Insurance

- **Buy a flood insurance policy.**
- Typical homeowner’s insurance policies **do not cover flood losses.**
- According to FEMA, **your home has a 26 percent chance of flooding** during the life of a 30-year mortgage if located in the 100-year (1%) floodplain.
- Up to 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from flooded structures **outside of high-risk flood zones.**
- City of Tulsa residents receive a **45 percent discount on flood insurance** for their homes.
- **Renters can purchase insurance coverage** for their contents even if the owner does not insure the structure.