

Flooding...

can happen during an intense rainfall, but typically occurs after several days of heavy rain. After the ground is saturated flooding can occur very quickly with little or no warning if a particularly powerful storm burst occurs. While the water district's many reservoirs provide some buffer between rainfall and creekflow, most creeks do not have a reservoir and water levels rise quickly during intense rainstorms.

When creeks overbank, the floodwater typically flows swiftly through neighborhoods and away from streams. Dangerously fast-moving floodwaters can flow thousands of feet away from the flooded creek within minutes.

While the chances seem slim for a flood in the 1% floodplain (the area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that has a 1% chance of flooding in any given year), the real odds of a 1% flood are **greater than 1 in 4** during the length of a 30-year mortgage.

Creeks that **flood**

These Santa Clara County creeks are flood prone:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adobe Creek | Los Gatos Creek |
| Alamias Creek | Lower Penitencia Creek |
| Alamitos Creek | Lower Silver Creek |
| Almendra Creek | Loyola Creek |
| Arroyo Calero Creek | McAbee Creek |
| Barron Creek | Pajaro River |
| Berryessa Creek | Permanente Creek |
| Bodfish Creek | Purissima Creek |
| Calabazas Creek | Quimby Creek |
| Calera Creek | Randol Creek |
| Calero Creek | Ross Creek |
| Canoas Creek | San Francisquito Creek |
| Corralitos Creek | San Martin Creek |
| Coyote Creek | San Tomas Aquino Creek |
| Crosley Creek | Santa Teresa Creek |
| Deer Creek | Saratoga Creek |
| Dexter Creek | Shannon Creek |
| East Little Llagas Creek | Sierra Creek |
| Edmundson Creek | Smith Creek |
| Fisher Creek | South Babb Creek |
| Fowler Creek | Stevens Creek |
| Gavilan Creek | Sunnyvale East and West Channels |
| Golf Creek | Tennant Creek |
| Greystone Creek | Upper Penitencia Creek |
| Guadalupe River | Upper Silver Creek |
| Hale Creek | Uvas-Carnadero Creek |
| Heney Creek | Vasona Creek |
| Jones Creek | West Branch Llagas Creek |
| Llagas Creek | West Little Llagas Creek |
| Los Coches Creek | Wildcat Creek |

To report...

street flooding or blocked storm drains, or to contact your local floodplain manager call:

Campbell	408.866.2145
Cupertino	408.777.3269
Gilroy	408.846.0444
Los Altos	650.947.2785
Los Altos Hills	650.941.7222
Los Gatos	408.399.5770
Milpitas	408.586.2400
Monte Sereno	408.354.7635
Morgan Hill	408.776.7333
Mountain View	650.903.6234
Palo Alto	650.329.2413
San José	408.277.4373
Santa Clara	408.615.3080
Saratoga	408.299.2507
Sunnyvale	408.730.7510
Unincorporated	408.299.2507

STAY SAFE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD!

www.valleywater.org • 408.265.2600

Santa Clara Valley Water District manages wholesale drinking water resources and provides stewardship for the county's watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, hundreds of miles of streams and groundwater basins. The water district also provides flood protection throughout Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118



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2009 notice

CALM ADVICE FROM CHARLES "CHICKEN" LITTLE

*Flood season isn't a good reason to panic.
But it is a good reason to prepare.*

THE LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

It is always important to be ready in any natural disaster, including earthquake, fire or flooding. In Santa Clara County, flooding is caused by overbanking from local creeks, or potentially from extremely high tides in San Francisco Bay. "Flooding" also occurs when storm drains cannot convey runoff to the creeks. More than 50 creeks in Santa Clara County are known to cause significant flooding.

If you received this mailer, your property is in or near the floodplain of one of those creeks as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Look inside for more information on how you can stay safe.

ADVICE FROM CHARLES "CHICKEN" LITTLE:

"You may remember me as that panicky bird who ran around yelling "The sky is falling!" that one time. Yes, well, thanks to years of meditation classes, I'm now calmly helping remind people that flood season is coming."

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

- What is the smartest thing you can do to prepare for flooding?
- How much floodwater would it take to float your car away?
- What do you do when it floods?



STAY SAFE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD

What you can do to protect your property from flooding

- Periodically examine your property for flood risks. Seal any cracks in the foundation and exterior walls of your home and seal small openings around pipes with grout, concrete, crack filler or caulk.
- Gather emergency building materials, such as plywood, plastic sheeting and sandbags. **For sandbag locations and to find out how to use them, visit www.valleywater.org or call 408.265.2600.**
- Construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Inspect rain gutters and drainage; consider tarping or seeding any unvegetated slopes on your property.

Before a flood

- Prepare a family disaster plan for floods, earthquakes and fires. Make an emergency kit for your home and for your car with emergency supplies such as a flashlight, batteries, water and non-perishable food. Move insurance policies, documents and other valuables to a safe deposit box.
- Be aware of the locations of streams and drainage channels in your neighborhood (see the list of local **"Creeks that flood"** on the back).
- Learn how to turn off utilities to your home and keep your car's gas tank full so you won't be stranded.
- Learn the best route to high ground to avoid flood waters.
- The smartest thing you can do to prepare for floods is **purchase flood insurance.**

During a flood

- Be aware that flash flooding can occur and move immediately to higher ground.
- Tune to radio stations KCBS (740 AM) or KSJO (92.3 FM) for emergency information, traffic updates and instructions.
- If you must evacuate, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Evacuation is easier and safer before floodwaters become too deep.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you and to aid in balance.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away. A foot of water will float many vehicles. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-ups.

After a flood

- Listen for news reports on whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to your power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Never try to walk, swim, drive or play in floodwater.
- Stay out of any building that is surrounded by floodwaters. Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.



We speak your language

Tập tài liệu này gồm có các tin tức về những nguồn cung cấp nước và phòng ngừa lũ lụt trong Quận Santa Clara. Để tìm hiểu thông tin bằng tiếng Việt nam, xin gọi Ty Thủy Cục Thung Lũng Santa Clara (Santa Clara Valley Water District) tại số 408.265.2607, số máy phụ 2488

此份刊物包含關於聖他克拉拉縣境內的水源及防洪資訊。若需要中文版資訊，請與聖他克拉拉縣水利局聯絡，電話是：408.265.2607 轉分機 2631

Esta publicación contiene información sobre los recursos de agua y protección contra inundaciones del Condado de Santa Clara. Para información en español llame al Distrito de Aguas del Valle de Santa Clara al 408.265.2607 ext. 2297

Do you need flood insurance?

Your basic homeowners insurance does not cover losses from flooding. Disaster assistance from the federal government in the form of reconstruction loans is only offered if a federal emergency is declared. Unlike disaster loans, money from flood insurance won't need to be repaid.

Federal law requires flood insurance if you have a federally regulated mortgage and your building is in an area shown on maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as subject to flooding during a 1% flood event. All communities in Santa Clara County participate in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, which means that **you can purchase flood insurance** to protect your property from the hazards of flooding. Education and other flood-risk reduction efforts like this brochure help to lower your insurance premiums through FEMA's Community Rating System. Lenders are legally responsible for determining if flood insurance is required for a loan, but your city will provide assistance in reading and interpreting the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map and provide information about FEMA elevation certificates.

In some cases, FEMA will lift the flood insurance requirement after flood protection projects have been completed. There can be as much as a 12- to 24-month delay between a project's completion and the update of the maps that generate this mailing list. **If you believe that your property is no longer subject to the requirement for flood insurance, contact the floodplain manager for your city using the telephone numbers listed on the back. If you need additional assistance, call the Community Projects Review Unit of the water district at 408.265.2607, ext. 2650.**

There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect. Contents coverage is separate, so renters and businesses can insure their belongings. Contents coverage is also available to homeowners separately from the required structural coverage. Securing both policies will cover your building and your belongings in case of a flood. Most insurance agents sell it; call 1.888.724.6978, or go online at **Floodsmart.gov** to find a local agent. Flood insurance is a good idea to protect your property and belongings even if it's not required by your lender.

Special permits required in floodplains

Construction within a FEMA-designated floodplain may have special permit requirements from your local municipality. Contact your community's building department for more information before you build, grade or fill. If you see building or filling without a permit sign posted, please contact your local community's building department. **Use the contact phone list provided on the back.**

Healthy creek ecosystems

A healthy stream is an irreplaceable natural resource and a wonderful amenity that can bolster a property's value. Make the most of your local creeks by helping to keep them healthy. Through proper care of stream banks and riparian vegetation, you can enhance your property, prevent erosion problems, avoid flood losses, preserve water quality, and contribute to the survival of fish and wildlife. **The water district has restored or created more than 345 acres of tidal and/or riparian habitat.**

The guidelines and standards for land use near streams manual can help creekside property owners large and small to make the right decisions in caring for their property. Find a copy at **www.valleywater.org/Programs/WaterResourcesProtectionCollaborative.aspx**

Keeping debris out of creeks helps water flow

Creeks are a valuable natural resource that not only support sensitive wildlife and ecosystems, but also serve as natural drainage systems, carrying stormwater away from homes, roads and businesses, and safely to the bay. For our waterways to carry runoff during heavy rainfall, it is important that creeks are kept free of trash and debris, which can impede the flow of water and cause flooding. While most people realize that trash and chemicals should not go into a creek, many don't know that yard waste, leaves and soil also pollute a creek and can obstruct water flow, resulting in flooding and erosion. **Where we own the creek or have easement, the water district repairs creek banks and levees, removes sediment from creek channels, inspects waterways and cleans up illegally dumped items such as shopping carts, cans and general litter.**

Do not dump

It is illegal to dump anything into a creek or storm drain. You can help keep the storm drain and flood management systems operating by reporting incidents of illegal dumping. Drains in your street flow directly to local creeks. Storm drain systems, the gutters, drains and pipes in the street are all maintained by cities. To report localized flooding caused by blocked storm drains, call your city's public works department. Their phone numbers are listed on the back. **To report illegal dumping, call the Santa Clara Valley Water District Illegal Dumping Hotline (24 hours) 1.888.510.5151.**

