

## **BASALT RESIDENTS: Be Prepared for Spring Runoff and Flooding**

Spring flooding is a strong possibility in our area this year due to the combination of warm temperatures, high snow pack and the possibility of heavy spring precipitation.

As a Basalt Resident, you or your property manager should take extra precautions if:

- You live next to or near the river(s).
- You have diverted water from runoff for water features on your property.
- You live anywhere near a water runoff culvert or storm water detention feature.
- Your home is located on a sloping property, or has a sloping driveway leading down to your home.
- You have experienced flooding in the past.
- You have landscaping that does NOT provide positive drainage AWAY from your home.

### **More Tips:**

- Call 9-1-1 to report any flooding or property in danger.
- Report water bubbling from the ground. This could indicate a broken water main.
- DO NOT attempt a rescue without proper training and equipment.
- Keep children and pets away from fast moving streams and higher water. Even six inches of fast flowing water can knock you off your feet.
- Don't allow children to play near high water, storm drains or ditches.
- Stay away from ground level electrical transformers that are inundated by floodwaters.
- If your basement is flooded, try to turn off electrical and gas appliances from an outdoor source.
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, irrigation ditches, and storm drains.
- DO NOT drive around barricades, they are there for your safety.
- Know what the weather is doing. Monitor National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, 107.9 FM, NOAA website: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/> or your local media for vital weather related information.

## HAVE AN EMERGENCY READY KIT

A disaster supply kit with essential food, water, and supplies for at least three days (72-hours).

This kit should be kept in a designated place and be ready to "grab and go" in case you have to leave your home quickly because of a disaster, such as a fire or flash flood. Make sure all household members know where the kit is kept.

Visit the Red Cross website for detailed information and checklist at: [http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0\\_217\\_00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_217_00.html) To purchase pre-packaged Emergency Kits, visit <http://www.redcrossstore.org>

Take precautions to avoid flood damage by covering low lying basement windows with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch plywood and removing valuables from lower level rooms within your home. If you suspect that you have flooding potential check into purchasing sandbags and pre-fill them to be ready for use at a moments notice. Check your local hardware store or lumber yard for availability. Sandbags are also available online at: <http://www.sandbagexpress.com> or <http://www.esandbags.com>.

In addition, we strongly recommend that you contact your homeowner's insurance agent to discuss your coverage for flooding events prior to this year's "spring runoff." Typical homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding, but separate flood insurance may be purchased to cover flood damage.

The Town of Basalt and the Basalt Emergency Management Committee have been cooperatively planning for a flooding event during this year's spring runoff season with Aspen, Pitkin County, Snowmass Village and Eagle County. However, we cannot be totally prepared without every individual resident's help and vigilance. We need everyone to take appropriate actions on their own behalf to prevent the possible flooding to your property. Thank you.

Channel 11, Grassroots TV and Channel 17, Roaring Fork Access, are airing a bi-lingual Flood Preparedness in Basalt TV show. Please check your local listings for air times. The TV show is also available on DVD at Basalt Town Hall. The Aspen/Pitkin Emergency Preparedness Hotline is (970) 429-1800.