

Know Your Risk & Act

WASHOE COUNTY FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT



COMMUNITY
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Before a flood: Know Your Risk and Act.

Know Your Flood Risk: Washoe County

Serious flooding occurs regularly throughout Nevada. In Washoe County, climate, geology, and hydrology combine to create chronic conditions where river and stream water flow outside their normal course and overflow. On average, the Truckee Meadows has one major flood event per decade. However, localized flooding and flooding within closed basins may occur seasonally.

Our goal at Washoe County is to inform residents of opportunities to prepare and take action to protect public safety and welfare prior to a flood. This starts with understanding your risk of flooding on your property.

Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) are geographic areas which FEMA defines according to varying levels of flood risk, and these areas are identified on federal flood hazard boundary maps or flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs). In Washoe County, over 16,000 properties are within a SFHA.

Washoe County flood mitigation specialists are available to help determine your property's flood risk. In addition, this information is readily available on-line on both the [Federal Emergency Management website](https://www.fema.gov) and the Washoe County website. Visit www.washoecounty.gov/csd for more information.

Act: Prevent water damage

While building permits are not required for ordinary maintenance, building within special flood hazard areas requires adding building measures to prevent water damage. For example, a home may be elevated to prevent water from rising into the habitable structure.

To incorporate the latest adopted building code for flood zones, obtain a building permit prior to construction and hire a licensed contractor. Remember, building permits are required for extensive grading to ensure storm water continues to flow on and off the property effectively.

Act: Property Maintenance

In Washoe County, private property owners are generally responsible for maintaining and clearing stormwater drainage (pipes, culverts) on their property. Localized flooding due to microburst storms are common in Nevada and seasonal maintenance is one of the best ways to protect your property.

Act: Protect Personal Safety

During an emergency, your personal safety is more important than your most valuable property. Take steps now to help your family prepare for an emergency. Visit [Washoe County Emergency Management website](https://www.washoecounty.gov/emergency) or contact Washoe311 to sign up to receive regional alerts, make a family emergency plan, and assemble an emergency kit.

Flood Risk Calculators

Determine your flood risk online at the Federal Emergency Management website "Flood Zones" or on the very accessible RiskFactor.com.

Washoe County also provides support for residents to determine their flood zone area.

www.washoecounty.gov/311/index.php

Act: Flood insurance

Flood insurance is available to Washoe County property owners and renters. It is required for property within a special flood hazard area that is backed by federal loans. However, all property owners may benefit. Approximately 30% of all flood insurance claims nationwide occur outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Property owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure their possessions. Please remember, landscaping is not typically covered.

Call your local insurance agent or NFIP at (800) 638-6620 for more information.