



FEMA

## PROPERTY FLOOD PROTECTION FACT SHEET

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- **Do not dump or throw anything into ditches or streams.** A plugged channel cannot carry water, and when it rains, the excess water must go somewhere. Trash and vegetation dumped into a stream degrades water quality of both the stream itself and its receiving waters, and every piece of trash contributes to flooding. Please report any observations of the dumping of debris or other objects into streams, drainage ways, or rivers to the City of Troutdale Code Compliance Officer at (503) 674-7270, or City of Troutdale Public Works Department at (503) 674-3300.
- **Remove debris, trash, loose branches and vegetation.** Keep banks clear of brush and debris to help maintain an unobstructed flow of water in stream channels. Do not remove vegetation that is actively growing on a stream bank. Streamside vegetation is tightly regulated by local, state and federal regulations. Before undertaking any removal of streamside vegetation, contact the City of Troutdale Planning Department at (503) 674-7261 or the Department of State Lands at (503) 378-3805 if the vegetation removal is below the ordinary high water mark. Please report any observations of the clearing of vegetation or trees on stream banks of Arata, Beaver and Salmon Creeks, and the Sandy or Columbia Rivers to the City of Troutdale Planning Department.
- **Obtain a floodplain development permit and / or building permit, as required.** To minimize damage to structures during flood events, the City requires all new construction in the floodplain to be reviewed for compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program standards and the Flood Management Area development standards of Troutdale Development Code. City staff is available to discuss permit procedures and may undertake site visits to review site issues. Contact the Planning Department at (503) 674-7261 for further information and prior to undertaking any development activity, including fill, within the floodplain.
- **Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding.** Floodplains are a natural component of the City's environment. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of floodplains helps to reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of the streambank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed and improved groundwater recharge. Floodplains are scenic and valued for water quality and wildlife habitat. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties and degradation of water quality.
- **During times of flooding, homes that have not been retrofitted can be protected during emergencies by the installation of sandbags.** For further information about sandbags and the locations of sites where sandbags are available during flooding, contact the City of Troutdale Public Works Department at (503) 674-3300.