

# “Flooding In Steuben County”

Steuben County has been effected by Inland Flooding from coastal storms before. Hurricane Agnes in 1972 produced some of the most severe flooding in the County ever. Severe thunderstorms, hurricanes and coastal storms produce large amounts of rain which could lead to inland flooding. The Steuben County Office of Emergency Management encourages you to take the following actions to protect yourself and your family from the hazards of flooding:

- Learn your vulnerability to flooding now by determining the elevation of your property. Evaluate your insurance coverage; as construction grows around areas, floodplains change. If you are in a flood area, consider what mitigation measure you can do in advance.
- In high flood-prone areas, keep materials on hand like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, plastic garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots and gloves. Go to the Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District web site for information about how to properly utilize sand bags: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/emb/sandbag.html>
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood, so you or your evacuation routes are not cut off. If you choose or are told to evacuate, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.
- Monitor local radio / television broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio to learn of the storm's progress and for information from emergency officials.
- Avoid driving into water of unknown depth. Moving water can quickly sweep your vehicle away. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Restrict children from playing in or near flooded streams, creeks or rivers.
- After a flood, you should test your well water for potability.
- Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with floodwaters. Wash canned goods that come in contact with floodwaters with soap and hot water.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

Additional resources: <http://www.floodready.org/sandbags.htm>

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