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What do I need to know?

2011 Spring Melt



West Fargo Public Works

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2011 Spring Melt



The spring melt is right around the corner, and the City of West Fargo wants its residents to have the information they need to be prepared. Inside this brochure, you'll find general information and frequently asked questions about the Sheyenne Diversion and the upcoming melt.



The City is planning an informational meeting on **February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Cheney Middle School Theater.**

Flood Insurance: Do I need to purchase flood insurance?

Flood insurance is not required. Every property in West Fargo, within the diversion project, is protected from the predicted flows of the Sheyenne River. Insurance is a personal decision, as there is always a chance for localized flooding from snow melt or rains. You should have this discussion with your insurance provider.



River Gage Levels/Elevations: To what elevation are we protected?

The Sheyenne Diversion protects to a predicted flow rated in cubic feet per second. These numbers have been roughly equated to 100 year levels south of I-94 and 500 year levels north of I-94. There is also a built-in safety factor, freeboard.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Sandbags: Do I need to sandbag my house or property?

The Sheyenne River is not a threat to any West Fargo property. The City has identified and contacted properties that *may* be at risk. If you have walkout basements or low egress windows, be aware of melting snow and drainage around your property. If you have concerns, contact Public Works at 433-5410.

Does the City need help filling sandbags?

The City does not anticipate a need for assistance to fill sandbags, but does encourage you to assist other cities in their efforts.

Elevations: What is the elevation of my home?

There is no relationship between the elevation of your home and a potential flood. The Sheyenne Diversion and tie back levees protect past the predicted river crest overland flooding from outside of the diversion. If you need your elevation, please contact Engineering at 282-4692.

Plug Sewer Drains and Toilets: How will I know if I need to plug my sewer drains and/or toilets?

With ponding water, there's always potential for water to enter the sanitary system. Combined with added water from sump pumps, an extended power outage could cause problems.

If there is a concern, the City will issue a press release and utilize the Code Red system to notify residents. To register for Code Red, go to www.westfargond.gov.

Sump pumps: What do I need to do with my sump pump?

Once the melt has started, all sump pumps should be directed to discharge outside and not into the sanitary sewer. Discharge should be directed away from your home and toward a catch basin or rear yard inlet.

Rear Yard Drainage/Frozen or Plugged Catch Basin: My catch basin or inlet is plugged, what can be done?

Always make sure to clear the drain of any obstructions, if you are unable to do this and water is threatening to cause damage, please contact Public Works at 433-5410.

The amount of freeboard is roughly 3 feet on both projects north and south of I-94.

To put this in perspective, the difference between a 100 and 500 year river level is half a foot. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact either Public Works at 433-5410 or Engineering at 282-4692.

Red River Risk to West Fargo: At what level is West Fargo at risk from the Red River?

With the existing natural high ground and the Sheyenne Diversion projects, we are protected to 42 feet with minimal effort. We have established contingencies to protect to a higher level if needed.

