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Safely cleaning up after a flood

As the Ohio River floodwaters begin to recede, home and business owners turn their attention to the task of cleaning up. MSD advises ***taking photographs of the damage before cleanup begins***. Residents and owners are encouraged to begin cleanup as soon as possible; ***floodplain permits are not required before cleanup begins***.

Flood cleanup safety tips:

- Before entering your home, check for damaged power lines, gas lines, foundation cracks and other exterior damage. It may be too dangerous to enter the home.
- If you smell natural gas or propane or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and contact the fire department
- Do not walk into a flooded basement because of the risk of electrocution. Turn off gas, water and electricity — if you can without wading into the water.
- Discard any food, medicine or cosmetics that may have come into contact with floodwaters.
- Floodwaters can carry chemicals and germs that could be harmful to your health. Protect yourself during cleanup by wearing boots, gloves and masks. Clean and disinfect everything that may have come in contact with floodwater.
- Open all doors and windows to circulate air and dry out your home. Dehumidify as soon as possible.

Get a permit before you repair or rebuild in a floodplain

MSD is responsible for permitting and inspecting all new construction—including repairs and improvements to existing structures in the floodplain, according to the Louisville Metro Floodplain Ordinance.

To apply for a floodplain permit:

Apply online

- Download the Application for a Permit to Develop/Repair in a Floodplain, visit LouisvilleMSD.org/programs/floodplain-management and click on the “Permitting” icon.
- For repairs or improvements to an existing structure, provide an itemized estimate of material and labor costs of the repairs or improvements to be made, including demolition costs—even if this work is to be done by the homeowner or a volunteer. It is not required to include cleanup costs in the estimate.
- Provide building value—PVA data or owner-provided appraisal.

- Submit the application and all documents listed above.

Apply by email:

FloodPermits@louisvillemSD.org

For questions concerning floodplain permitting, call 502.540.6126.

For more information on the floodplain visit

<https://louisvillemSD.org/programs/floodplain-management>

Continuing coverage

Currently, MSD has 12 of its 16 flood pumping stations in minor flood-mode service. The flood pumping stations are part of the floodwall and levee system. Openings in the system are closed to keep the rising river out of the city. The pumps take inland water and push it out to the river.

Ohio River levels are projected to crest at 29.5-feet on the Upper Pool and 60.8-feet on the Lower Pool Saturday night, March 6, into Sunday morning. Then the river is expected to recede slowly. The normal level on both pools is 12-feet. The McAlpine Locks and Dam defines the end of the Upper Pool and the beginning of the Lower Pool.

MSD has one floodwall roadway closure in service on 27th Street. There are no plans for other floodwall roadway closures.

Background

MSD maintains Louisville Metro's Ohio River Flood Protection System—keeping the river at bay and out of the city.

The system protects more than 200,000 people, 137,000 structures, and \$34 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. It includes 26.1 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 79 floodwall closures.

Where creeks and storm drains pass through the floodwall, gates can be closed to keep the river from flowing up the streams, and large pumps at the flood pumping stations lift the water from the creeks and pump it into the river. Additional gates and pumping stations keep the river from backing up through storm drains and pipes, pumping the stormwater into the river.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the system after the city's two highest floods of record in 1937 and 1945. MSD has been responsible for the Flood Protection System since 1987.

MSD Customer Relations is available 24/7/365

502.540.6000

CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org.

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About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 670 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Oldham County. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.