

FLOODING

GENERAL SITUATION

The size and frequency of a flood depends on a complex combination of conditions, including the amount, intensity and distribution of rainfall, previous moisture condition and drainage patterns. The magnitude of a flood is measured in terms of its peak discharge, which is the maximum volume of water passing a point along a channel. Floods are usually referred to in terms of their frequency of occurrence, 50 or 100 years.

The primary effect of flooding is the threat to life and property. Floods may also create health hazards due to the discharge of raw sewage from damaged septic tank leach fields, sewer lines, and sewage treatment plants and due to flammable, explosive, or toxic materials carried off by flood waters. In addition, vital public services may be disrupted.

SPECIFIC SITUATION

Due to its low land profile, the City of Oxnard became a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City also adopted a Master Plan of Drainage (2003) and a Floodplain Management Ordinance to protect its residents and businesses. The City of Oxnard falls within the Santa Clara River's 1,600 square mile watershed. Areas along the northern border of the City fall within the river's 100-year floodplain with a larger portion of Oxnard's core falling within the 500-year floodplain.

EMERGENCY READINESS STAGES

Flood in the special risk areas can occur rapidly or slowly depending on the heaviness and severity of rainfall. Emergency preparedness will be based on four stages of response actions.

Stage I (Watch Stage)

Light to Moderate rain. All field units (Public Works, Police, Fire Departments, etc.) are to review their procedures for flood incidents.

Stage II

Moderate to heavy rain expected for the next four to six hours. Public Information on location of sandbags, sand and flood clean-up kits to be prepared and distributed to appropriate departments.

Stage III

Continuation of heavy rain over next 6 to 12 hours. Identified risk areas should be closed to traffic. Public information to be distributed to residents and businesses in affected areas by all available field units.

Stage IV

Threat to private property and persons. Areas should be evacuated that pose a safety or health hazard.

ATTACHMENT 1, THREAT SUMMARY 3
FLOOD HAZARD MAP

