

## **CITY OF HOLBROOK**

### **FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION**

Holbrook is subject to flood damages from three sources, the Little Colorado River, flows from smaller tributaries to the north and east of town, and from excessive run-off onto the City's streets. The flood hazard areas of the City of Holbrook are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare. The flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in areas of special flood hazards that increase flood heights and velocities and, when inadequately anchored, damage uses in other areas. Uses that are inadequately floodproofed, elevated or otherwise protected from flood damage also contribute to the flood loss.

### **THE CITY OF HOLBROOK FLOOD SERVICE**

One of the first things you should do is check you flood hazard. Everyone is welcome to gather information concerning flood hazards and flood protection. Information can be attained at the Library or at City Hall. As a public service the Community Service Department will visit your property to review potential flood hazards and explain possible ways to prevent flood damage.

The City of Holbrook's efforts to limit flood damage and to protect the people of Holbrook as well as the businesses depend on your cooperation and assistance. Here are ways that you can help:

\*Do not dump or throw anything into ditches or streams. Dumping into the ditches or streams is a violation of the Holbrook City Ordinance 15-3-10. Every piece of trash or material contributes to the problem. A channel or ditch that is obstructed cannot carry water when it rains and the water has to go somewhere.

\*If located next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. The city has a channel drainage maintenance program that can help remove blockages such as weeds, downed trees, and other debris.

\*If you see dumping or debris in the ditches or drainage channels, contact the Public Works Department at 524-6225.

\*Also check with the Building Department before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill you your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that the project complies with the required regulations and that it does not cause any drainage problems.

\*There is information available on floodproofing, flood insurance and flood safety.

The Holbrook City Library has several books on design guidelines, residential repair, floodproofing and elevating structures.

### **FLOOD INSURANCE**

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Holbrook participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded.

Some people have purchased flood insurance because the bank required it when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During most floods there is more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. If

you're covered, you should check out the amount and make sure you have your contents covered. Flood insurance does cover all surface floods.

### **FLOOD SAFETY**

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; moving water can knock you off your feet. If you are walking in standing water, use a pole to insure that the ground is still there.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrocutation is the second largest cause of flood related deaths. Electrical current does travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company.

Have your electricity turned off by the Power Company. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or a stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.