

September 15, 2014

Tempe encourages residents to prepare for potential flooding

With Hurricane Odile predicted to bring heavy rains and potential flooding to the southwest this week, Tempe encourages residents to take precautions and be prepared. Flash floods can come rapidly, occurring within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

Sandbags

- The City of Tempe has sand, bags and shovels available at two locations:
 - Tempe Field Operations, 55 S. Priest Drive (northeast corner of Priest Drive and Rio Salado Parkway) – south side of parking lot
 - Benedict Sports Complex, 490 W. Guadalupe Road (northwest corner of Guadalupe and Kyrene roads) – east side of parking lot
- Fill bags one-half to two-thirds full, allowing bags to lie flat and nestle together to create a tight sandbag wall. Over-filled bags are too firm and can create a leaky sandbag wall. Tying bags is not necessary.

Streets & Driving

- Don't drive through flooded areas. Even if water appears shallow enough to cross, don't try it; it may be much deeper than it appears or the road beneath the water may be washed away.
- If you see a flooded road ahead, turn around and find another route to your destination; if there is no other route, get to higher ground and wait for flood waters to subside.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- Traffic signals that are not functioning or are flashing red should be treated as four-way stops; drivers should stop and yield accordingly.

Stormdrains & Gutters

- City crews are checking and clearing storm drains to allow rainwater to drain as efficiently as possible.
- Residents can help by clearing any debris from the gutters adjacent to their property.

Standing Water

- Flood waters and standing waters can pose various risks, including infectious diseases, chemical hazards and injuries. Eating or drinking anything contaminated by flood water can cause disease, and open wounds and rashes exposed to flood waters can become infected.
- Don't allow children to play in flood water areas.
- Wash hands after contact with flood waters; wash children's hands frequently (always before meals).

Other Tips

- People who live in flood-prone areas are encouraged to pack a three-day bag of supplies, including clothes and medications, in case they need to relocate quickly.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Clear debris from roof gutters and downspouts.
- Trim trees, especially those close to the house, to help prevent breakage and uprooting.
- Pretreat pools with chlorine shock to help prevent algae growth.

For City of Tempe updates and information 480-350-4311

www.tempe.gov/monsoons

www.facebook.com/cityoftempe

Twitter: @tempegov

Other resources

Tempe Elementary School District: (480) 730-7100 www.tempeschools.org

Kyrene Elementary School District: (480) 541-1000 www.kyrene.org

Tempe Union High School District: (480) 839-0292 www.tuhsd.k12.az.us

Arizona Department of Transportation: www.az511.gov