

What Caused the Flooding, and What Measures Can be taken to Reduce the Damage by Flooding!!

In your neighborhood flooding has occurred recently or in the near past (Near past may be up to 10 years). Several factors may have contributed to the flooding. Did you know that in 1990 Indiana had a record year for precipitation. The total precipitation was 50 inches. The average precipitation is approximately 35 inches. In 1990, several properties made claims to their flood insurance. Most of these claims to their flood insurance were made from October 1990 through December 1990. This suggests several reasons for the flooding:

- Drains and ditches were not adequate to sustain such larger amounts of water.
- The ground was so saturated that it could not hold any more water, so the water pooled/flooded.
- Dams on the lakes or rivers were not properly maintained for these types of conditions; therefore, causing flooding.
- Ice jams occurred, backing up water from ditches, drains, and dams.

Once all or none of these factors could have contributed to the flooding problems in your neighborhood.

There are several ways to protect yourself from flooding, and to reduce the damage caused by flooding. The most important thing in a flood is to keep yourself safe. When a flood arrives make sure you and those around you are away from flooding.

Several inexpensive flood prevention measures are available to you. Most communities have a flood warning system in place. This flood warning system will warn you in advance of flooding. The reaction time of the flood warning should give you adequate time to prepare for a flood, and then evacuate.

When you become aware that your neighborhood is starting to flood you should take a few safety precautions.

- Have your electricity turned off.
- Have your gas turned off.
- Move all precious family articles to another location.
- Move all other articles that would be damaged by flooding to a second story or other location.
- Secure the safety of others around you.

There are also several ways to protect your home and your belongings from flooding. Some of these measures are easy and inexpensive to undertake, while others are more costly. However, the benefits you gain from these measures will not only save you money (in the long run), but could also save your life.

One of the most effective ways to floodproof/retrofit your home is to elevate the home two feet above the base flood elevation (100 year flood elevation). Another method is to create a berm or floodwall.

A berm can be used to floodproof an entire neighborhood or community. A floodwall can be used for individual homes. This method is somewhat expensive, but very effective.

There are other inexpensive methods that can be used for floodproofing (protecting from flood damage) your home.

- Elevate all utilities.
- Install a backflow valve in water and sewer pipes.

You can find more methods of flood proofing property and structures at the Federal Emergency Management Agencies web page at:

<http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/> or the Department of Natural Resources Division of Water web page at:

<http://www.state.in.us/dnr/water/>

Also, you may contact the Kosciusko County Area Plan Commission Office for more information or recommendations.