

Denis Law
Mayor

City of
Renton



Mayor's Office

RE: Increased Flood Awareness/Howard Hanson Dam

Dear City of Renton Businesses and Residents:

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages the Howard Hanson Dam near the headwaters of the Green River. The dam helps maintain water storage and reduces the risk of flooding in the Valley/floodplain.

After this winter's storms, USACE discovered two depressions in the land mass adjacent to the dam. As a result of these findings, the USACE has determined it will be unable to hold as much water behind the dam during heavy rains. This situation creates a higher probability of flooding in areas of Renton that reside in the floodplain (Highway 167 west to the Green River and Renton's southern boundary north to the Burlington Northern railway corridor).

USACE reports that the integrity of the dam is not in question; it is sound. However, until more information is gathered and analyzed, it is uncertain what the actual impacts might be for our area. We are monitoring the situation with the USACE and working with neighboring cities, county and state offices to address the situation. We will keep you informed about the risk and planned repair.

Even though significant flooding may not occur, it is always a possibility within the floodplain. We urge businesses and individuals to explore insurance options and take steps now to be prepared. The enclosed resource card offers information that can help you protect your property/business should flooding occur. You are encouraged to complete your emergency information in the space provided and place the card in an accessible location.

When planning for possible flooding, evacuation merits special consideration. The most appropriate evacuation route is determined based on the situation at the time. Evacuation notices, with specific route information, will be made via the news media and over the Emergency Alert System. The Emergency Alert System broadcast messages can be received via a NOAA weather radio, which alerts only when an urgent weather notice (including flooding) is issued.

Prior to the next flood season, the city will be implementing an autodialing system that can call affected citizens and provide specific emergency instructions if needed. When more notification of a potential situation is possible, an e-mail distribution list will also be utilized.

We encourage you to sign up for the e-mail distribution list by calling 425-430-6852 or by e-mailing vlietz@rentonwa.gov. Visit our website, rentonwa.gov, in September to register for the emergency notification system. Another way to ensure you receive important emergency information is by purchasing a NOAA weather radio, available at many local retailers.

Businesses interested in exploring flood protection measures and/or adding flood evacuation to their facility emergency plan are encouraged to contact our Emergency Management staff at 425-430-7000 or by e-mail at dneedham@rentonwa.gov.

Sincerely,

Denis Law
Mayor

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