



GUADALUPE COUNTY, TEXAS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Flood Awareness Newsletter
December 2016

Main office:
2605 N Guadalupe St.
Seguin, TX 78155
P: 830-303-8858
F: 830-372-3961

Shelly Coleman, CFM
Director

Melissa Zwicke, CFM
Floodplain Manager

THIS ISSUE:

- 2014 FMA Grant Program
- Natural Disaster Quiz
- Stormwater Drainage
- Backyard Flooding Solutions

2014 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program

The FMA Grant Program was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the NFIP. Consistent with Biggert-Water Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, the FMA Grant Program is focused on mitigating several repetitive loss (SRL) properties and repetitive loss (RL) properties. Guadalupe County was awarded a FMA Grant in 2014 to elevate qualified participating properties out of the floodplain in accordance with grant requirements and local floodplain ordinances. Currently under the grant, several homes are now lifted to the required height and adding finishing touches so the homeowner may move back into their home. In 2015, Guadalupe County applied for another FMA Grant to lift a new group of homes. The first phase of the 2015 FMA Grant should start very soon.



Much of the world's population lives on or near waterways, how much do you know about the world's deadliest natural disaster?

What caused the famous 1889 flood in Johnstown, Pa.?

- a. melted ice in the Allegheny Mtns
- b. Hurricane Clara
- c. a broken dam

The Arno River flooded in _____, causing major damage to the art collections of Florence, Italy.

- a. 1884
- b. 1912
- c. 1966

What's a muddy flood?

- a. flood caused by runoff on farmland
- b. flood caused by a landslide
- c. flood with a lot of mud in it

One of the world's largest moving structures is a flood barrier. Where is it located?

- a. Egypt
- b. New Orleans
- c. the Netherlands

According to the NFIP, what's the chance of the average home sustaining flood damage in the course of a 30-year mortgage?

- a. 14 percent
- b. 26 percent
- c. 48 percent

How much rapidly moving water can knock a person down?

- a. 3 inches
- b. 6 inches
- c. 1 foot

In the floods of 1993, how many of the Mississippi River's 1,300 levees failed?

- a. 3
- b. 86
- c. 1,000

How high was the wall of water that hit Shadyside, Ohio, in a flash flood on June 14, 1990?

- a. 9 to 12 feet
- b. 12 to 15 feet
- c. 15 to 20 feet

(answers: c-c-a-c-b-b-c-c)

Stormwater Drainage

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the portion of the drainage system that is located on their property and solving localized drainage problems. **They may:**

- Widen, deepen, and clean** natural depressions that carry surface water.
- Straighten out channels** on their own property and accelerate the movement of surface water so long as they do not change the natural flow.
- Drain** standing water or ponding water in the direction of overflow.



Because of the effect on surrounding lands, property owners **must not:**

- Dam or obstruct** a natural drainage channel.
- Divert** water to lands that do not naturally receive this drainage.
- Change the point of entry** of surface water on lower land.
- Pollute** any waters that pass from their land through the property of others.
- Accelerate the flow of water unreasonably**, to the material damage of lower land owners by others.

Backyard Flooding Solutions

Wet spots in your yard are a nuisance and an eyesore. Grass will die if it's underwater for too long. You can't mow over wet areas, and everyone tracks mud into the house. So what's the answer? Try Simple Fixes....



Create a Creek Bed

A creek bed can channel water away from a low spot or direct runoff into a rain garden or dry well. Start by making a swale—essentially a gentle, shallow drainage ditch.

Create a Dry Well

A dry well is simply a large hole filled with gravel or some other aggregate that catches excess water and holds it while it soaks into the ground.



Install French Drain

A French drain is a versatile system for dealing with all kinds of drainage problems. It disperses water over a large area through a buried perforated pipe.

