

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Answers

from the US Army Corps of Engineers Public Meeting held on Wednesday May 22, 2019

Q----What areas were affect by the 1993 flood?

Please look at the Big Blue Inundation model and associated maps and information on the following websites:

<https://gis.rileycountyks.gov/>

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/inundation/index.php?gage=mntk1>

<https://cityofmhk.com/2629/Blue-River-Flood-Risk>

<https://cityofmhk.com/2953/Flood-Information>

<http://www.rileycountyks.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=929>

Q---If releases are made from the tubes, will it affect my property?

We do not expect any Tuttle Creek Outlet Works (commonly referred to as “the tubes”) releases to adversely affect occupied structures along the Big Blue River. See answer for mapping.

Q----What is the difference between a 100-year and 500-year flood?

A 1% flood is commonly referred to as a 100-year and a .2% flood is commonly referred to as the 500-year flood. The 1993 is pretty well represented in the .2% chance flood modeling on the FEMA flood plan maps (see Answer RC-1). The .2% chance identifies that area that has a .2% chance of flooding each year. The 1% chance identifies that area that has a 1% chance of flooding each year. Both of these are shown on the Riley County GIS website (see answer for mapping)

Q---Is FEMA updating the 2015 flood maps?

There are no plans to change the flood mapping zones at the time by FEMA.

Q---How much time will the Corps give us before opening the tubes?

The County, City and areas downstream will receive official notice from the Corps of Engineers of any significant release of water through the Outlet Works (tubes). Properties downstream could be affected within hours or days depending on the release.

Continued.

Q---How much time will the Corps give us before opening the spillway?

The County, City and areas downstream will receive official notice from the Corps of Engineers of any release of through the Spillway Gates. Properties downstream could be affected within hours or days depending on the release.

Q---Is there plan for door to door notification of residents and what messages might they give?

Residents of projected flood affected areas may receive one or all of the following depending which of our respective evacuation zones they live in:

- A. **High Water Advisory**- An advisory that notifies residents or property owners that their property may receive high water or their access to the property may be impacted.
- B. **Evacuation Advisory**- An advisory that notifies residents or property owners that their property may be flooded or their access to the property may be impacted, evacuation is recommended, and that they may be ordered to evacuate in the near future.
- C. **Evacuation Order**- A notification of “Imminent Danger” that notifies residents or property owners that their property may be flooded or their access to the property may be severely impacted. This order to evacuate is considered as mandatory for non-residents as a curfew is eminent for security of the affected areas.

Q---How will I know if someone evacuating me is official?

Emergency personnel wearing an official uniform will make notifications. If you question the legitimacy of the people at your door, always ask for an official government ID.

Q---How do we mark our house if we evacuate early to let the emergency personnel know that we have left?

For security reasons, residents or property owners that evacuate early should not identify their property as being evacuated. Evacuation teams will still go door to door and post an evacuation order on vacant structures.

Q---Where can I get sandbags and the sand to fill them?

Riley County Emergency Management has a limited supply of sandbags and does not stockpile sand. They were acquired to protect critical infrastructure in flood prone areas. Homeowners and businesses in the flood prone area from Blue River may pick up to 15 empty sandbags at 6215 Tuttle Creek Blvd between 8-4 M-F. Hardware stores also sell sandbags, but may have a limited supply of bags. Sand is still available at local outlets.

We recommend these sandbags be used to temporarily blockade doors, garage doors and windows wells. We do not recommend building sandbag walls, these are to detour small amounts of water that may while people are getting their belongings out. It is proven that sandbags do not keep standing or rising water out for an extended time and even for short term use, may require some kind of trash/water pump.

Continued.

Q---Do you need volunteers?

Volunteers with any of the following item are in need and should contact Mike Boller at 785-539-3202

- A. Physically fit personnel
- B. Enclosed or open trailers
- C. Large or small trucks
- D. Storage units available
- E. Storage containers for sale or rent
- F. Parking or vehicle storage properties
- G. Commercially packaged food and bottled water

Q---Who can I talk to about building in the floodplain?

Questions about floodplain regulations should be directed to Steve Higgins (785-537-6332) outside Manhattan and Chad Bunger (785-587-2412) inside Manhattan.

Q---Who should I talk to learn more about flood insurance?

Questions about flood insurance should be directed to an insurance agent or FEMA.

Q---Do releases at Tuttle Creek Lake affect Wildcat Creek?

Flooding effects on people or property along Wildcat Creek are dependent on the elevations of the Kansas River and Wildcat Creek.

Q---Will the City issue permits to rebuild or repair homes if flooding occurs?

Following a flood event, the City of Manhattan will inspect homes and businesses in the City limits for safe and habitable conditions.

If the property is located in the City's Special Flood Hazard Area (the definition can be found in Section 10-105), a detailed inspection of the building will occur. If the damage to the building meets or exceeds the definition of being substantially damaged (also found in Section 10-105), the building must conform to the Floodplain Regulations.

Generally speaking, if a home was found to be substantially damaged (damaged 50% or more than the fair market of the home or damaged by 2 floods in a 10-year period that caused an of average 25% or more damage of its fair market value), and was built lower than today's base flood elevation; the house would need to be elevated. This regulation is one of the City's higher standard floodplain regulations to break the cycle of a flood, repair, and repeat and to make current properties safer from flooding.

End.