

Important Flood and Sewer Information

For Farr West, Plain City and Surrounding Areas

The Farr West and Plain City areas have experienced massive flooding from recent storms and melting snow. The rising water levels have caused the sewer system to exceed capacity which has caused sewage to back up into some people's homes. The cities and sewer district are doing all they can to alleviate the problem, but a huge part of the problem could be in your basement in the form of a sump pump that is draining into the sewer system. Each sump pump draining into a sewer is the same as 50 houses worth of normal sewer usage (flushing toilets, taking showers, doing laundry etc.). We all need to work together to fix the problem.

What you can do:

1. Check your sump pump and make sure it is not draining to the sewer system. Any pump that is draining directly to the house plumbing system needs to be modified to drain out to the street or directly to a storm drain. The reverse side of this flyer has more information on how to make those adjustments.
2. Until the situation improves, cut back on the use of water as much as possible. Limit the use of dishwashers and washing machines. Prevent water from going into the sewer wherever possible.
3. Be a good neighbor. Check with those around you to see if they have gotten word about sump pumps draining to the sewer. See if they need help with ground water or other issues. Make phone calls, get on Facebook, do what you can to get the word out. We are all in this together, so let's work together.
4. The upstream cities of Pleasant View and North Ogden are taking similar precautions.

Some other important tips:

Be very careful when dealing with sewage that may be backing up into your home. Take precautions to limit your exposure to it. Waterproof gloves and boots are a must. Items that have been exposed to sewage should be discarded or carefully disinfected. Carpets that have been exposed should be professionally cleaned. A tablespoon of bleach in a gallon of water can be used as a disinfectant, but it can be harsh on skin and airways and may not be ideal. Benefect Decon 30 and Microban Disinfectant have been recommended over bleach.

Use extreme caution when working with water and anything that requires electricity. Pumps, fans, vacuums and any other device with a cord pose potential shock hazards.

Professional disaster relief or clean up companies can be invaluable in situations like these. Be cautious in hiring them, however. It is always a good idea to get two estimates before hiring any service. Also, be aware that there have been reports of companies soliciting services who claim they are working with the city or county and that the cost of the services will be taken care of by someone else. These claims are untrue.



The local chapters of The American Red Cross can help with cleaning supplies and tools. The best number to use is 801-391-8005 and ask for Bill.



Typical home sump pump setup with outflow going to sewer system. The modification needs to divert water to a garden hose or pipes that end up at the street or in a storm drain.

Some pumps can simply be disconnected from the current outflow pipes and connected to a garden hose. Others may require modification like in this picture. A professional plumber may be required for some, but the issue cannot be ignored.

Shut off valve
(about \$4)

Valve to accommodate
standard garden hose
(about \$9)

Pipe cement to
make connections
(about \$4)



Please be aware that it is illegal (a misdemeanor with potential for a \$1,500 fine) to pump ground water from your sump pump into the sanitary sewer system. More importantly right now is the adverse effect it is having on your neighbors, so please make the adjustments right away. If everyone does their part this situation will be under control much sooner. The Farr West City Facebook Page has more information if you need it. Thanks!

SIGN UP FOR REVERSE 911 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS FOR YOUR MOBILE PHONE

1. Go to www.weber911.org
2. Click on the CODE RED link on the right side of the page
3. Follow the instructions and provide your address and contact phone number

