

Malheur County Building Department



316 NE Goodfellow St. Suite 1 Phone 541-372-5460 Fax 541-372-5465

Contact Phone Numbers

If you have an emergency, please call 911

Electrical-

Idaho Power-208-388-2323

If you have electrical equipment under water or other related unsafe electrical, please contact Idaho Power.

If your power is disconnected, you must obtain an electrical permit and have an inspection before Idaho Power will restore power. This is for the safety of the occupants and the power grid. You can contact our office, and we can assist you with this process. The fastest way to restore power is to hire an Oregon Licensed Electrical Company.

Natural Gas or Propane Contacts-

Please contact the gas company if you have any concerns in regards to your natural gas equipment, damage, and or safety concerns.

Cascade Natural Gas -888-522-1130

Farmers Supply Co Op- LPG Propane 541-889-9727

AmeriGas 208-452-4360

Ed Staubs & Sons Propane 208-461-4556

Water/Sewer/Septic-

City of Vale 541-473-3133

City of Nyssa 541-372-2264

Malheur County Environmental Health 541-473-5186

State Water Master 541-473-5130

Farm Ground Assistance-

Soild and Water Conservation District <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/natural-resources/swcd/pages/default.aspx>

Natural Resources Conservation Services <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/natural-resources/swcd/pages/default.aspx>

Oregon Department of Agriculture <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Pages/default.aspx>

Please feel free to reach out to our office for help.

Adele Schaffeld, CBO

Building Official

Malheur County Building Department

316 NE Goodfellow St. Suite 1

Ontario OR 97914

P. 541-372-5460

F. 541-372-5465

Email: adele.schaffeld@bldgmalheurco.org

Building a Safe, Sustainable, and, Resilient Community. Building Codes Save Lives and Grow Communities.



MALHEUR COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

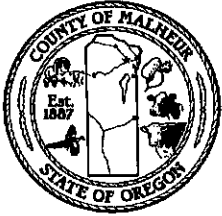
251 B Street West, #9 , Vale, Oregon 97918 , (541) 473-5186 , Fax (541) 473-5168

Flooded septic tanks and drain fields

Several items to consider with regard to floods and septic systems are:

- Silts and clays can be transported by floodwaters to septic tanks during floods. Pumping out the septic tank may be needed after these events
- Do not pump out the septic tank more than halfway or the tank may float out of the ground due to the saturated soil around the tank.
- Reduce all nonessential water use, such as dishwashing, washing clothes, showering. • Flush toilets as little as possible or use a temporary toilet.
- Floods may cause erosion around a property.
- Avoid exposure to flood water. Flood waters can contain a variety of contaminants including sewage, pesticides and industrial chemicals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Malheur County Environmental Health.



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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

251 B Street West, #9 , Vale, Oregon 97918 , (541) 473-5186 , Fax (541) 473-5168

Flooded septic tanks and drain fields

If your sewage disposal system has stopped working and wastewater has backed up into your plumbing, it is important that you stop putting additional waste or water into the system until it is repaired or has resumed working. Do not pump the septic tank, and do not assume that your plumbing is plugged. It is likely that the system is just flooded with water and temporarily cannot accept any more. Arrange for alternative toilet facilities. Use those of a neighbor or arrange for placement of chemical toilets near your home for the time being. Since wastewater is usually contaminated to some degree it should not be poured on the surface of the ground and should never be thrown into stream, rivers, ponds, lakes or ditches leading to them.

Inspect the area where your septic tank and drain field or other subsurface disposal system is located to see if the system is visibly damaged. If floodwaters have washed out or exposed any portion of the disposal system, it will be necessary that it be repaired before you resume use of it. Be sure to contact Malheur County Environmental Health before you do any significant repair or modification to a disposal system. If the system has been deeply buried by silt, it may be necessary to remove some of the excessive cover over the disposal area. While the disposal system is flooded it is very unlikely that the system will work at all, and it could be a number of days or weeks after the surface water disappears before the soil will be able to absorb wastewater. All you can do is wait until the water recedes and the ground begins to dry out.

Septic tanks and other submerged tanks should never be pumped or cleaned when soils are saturated or groundwater tables are within five feet of the surface of the ground. An empty or partially pumped tank may collapse from the outside pressure, or worse yet, the tank may be lifted out of the ground by the weight of water around it. You should contact Malheur County Environmental Health for specific advice and assistance if your system is visibly damaged or will not work after the floodwater subsides.

If you have any other questions or concerns, contact Malheur County Environmental Health



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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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Flooding and Wells

After flood waters have receded, wells should be tested before being used. Sample bottles for well testing are available at the Malheur County Environmental Health Department. In the County Courthouse in Vale, Room #113. Bottles are also available at Malheur County Building Department in Ontario, 316 NE Goodfellow St, Suite 1. Samples need to be gathered Wednesday morning and dropped off at the Ontario Water Treatment Plant at 1900 SE 5th Avenue, Ontario, OR 97914, by 11 am Wednesday morning. The Small entrance has a desk against the wall to place samples for pick up. Magic Valley Labs has their pick-up time at 11am on Wednesdays. Once the samples have been tested, results and the bill will be sent to the address marked on the sample paperwork.

An alternative drop off location, every 2nd Wednesday of the month, is available in Vale. Located at the City of Vale Public Works Shop, 333 10th St. N, Vale, OR 97918.

General Procedures for Sampling Wells:

For most water tests, follow these steps when collecting a sample:

- Take the sample close to the pump, before the water goes through a treatment system.
- Do not take the sample from a swing-type faucet. Inspect the faucet for leaks. Select another faucet if there is leaking.
- Remove the aerator.
- Disinfect the faucet with bleach or a flame.
- Run the water several minutes to clear the line.
- Take the sample midstream. Do not touch the opening or inside of the cap.
- If needed, store the sample in the refrigerator before taking to the lab.
- Submit the sample on the day of collection.

If you have any other questions or concerns, contact Malheur County Environmental Health



MALHEUR COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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PROPER MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

Proper sampling techniques are extremely important in obtaining accurate water quality information. An improperly taken coliform sample may indicate bacteriological contamination of your water when the water is actually safe. You can avoid the cost of additional testing by using good sampling procedures.

Carefully follow these steps in taking a sample for bacteriological testing:

1. Select the sampling point. The sampling point must be a faucet from which water is commonly taken from. The sampling point should be a non-swivel faucet. Remove any aerator or screen and flush. It should not be a faucet that leaks, permitting water to run over the outside of the faucet. Leaking faucets can promote bacterial growth. If an outside faucet must be used, disconnect any hoses or other attachments and be sure to flush the line thoroughly (see Step 4). Do not use fire hydrants as sampling points. Do not dip the bottle in reservoirs, spring boxes or storage tanks in order to collect the sample. It also might be necessary to disinfect the faucet with bleach or a flame. If you have any questions about proper sampling points, please contact the Environmental Health Department.
2. Use only sample bottles provided by the lab specifically for bacteriological sampling. Coliform bacteria tests require specially prepared sample bottles. These bottles should not be rinsed before sampling. A chemical placed in the bottles by the lab is necessary for correct test results. Keep several bottles on hand.
3. Don't open the sample bottle until the moment of filling. This helps prevent contamination of the sterile sample bottle.
4. Flush the line. Run the water through the faucet for three to five minutes before opening the bottle to take the sample. If your water system is chlorinated, measure the free chlorine residual before collecting the sample and record the residual on the lab form.
5. Uncap the sample bottle. As you do this, hold the bottle near the base and be sure not to put your fingers inside the sample bottle or on the inside of the lid. Do not set the lid down while taking the sample. Any of these things can contaminate the sample.
6. Reduce the water flow to a steady stream and gently fill the bottle, leaving an air space of at least one-half inch at the top. Remember, don't rinse the bottle before filling it. And be careful not to splash out the chemical already in the bottle.
7. Replace the cap immediately. Be sure that it's tight so it can't leak. If you drop the lid or think you have contaminated the sample, do not use it. Use another bottle and collect a new sample.
8. Label the sample bottle. Completely fill out the form provided by the lab. The information accompanying the sample must include:
 - Public Water System identification number
 - Date and time sampled
 - Location sampled
 - Name of person collecting sample

➤ The sample type: "routine," "repeat," or "special"

Routine: Samples collected on a regular basis to monitor for contamination.

Repeat: Samples collected following a "Present" (positive) routine sample. Usually four repeat samples must be collected. This figure is based on system size.

It is important to include the date of the initial positive routine sample for which the repeat samples were taken. A space is provided for this in the middle section of most forms.

Special: Samples collected for other reasons. Examples: a sample collected after repairs to the system and before it is placed back into operation, or a sample collected at a well head prior to disinfection.

➤ Free chlorine residual, if your system is chlorinated. The residual should be measured at the time of sample collection.

9. Package the sample for delivery to the lab. Be sure to include the lab form. The samples should be kept cool at all times. If mailing, use the container provided by the lab.

10. Mail or deliver the sample to the lab immediately. The lab cannot accept samples older than 30 hours. The water quality of the sample has changed too much by then to give correct results.

Need Assistance to Help You Fund Improvements for The Outside of Your Home?

- **No Household Income Limit!!**
- **Up to \$15,000 at 0% interest 5-year maximum payoff.**
- **With executed contract between homeowner and contractor, up to 50% of the loan request can be provided to allow work to begin.**
- **Available to property owners within the urban growth boundary and/or city limits in Adrian, Nyssa, Ontario and Vale who make aesthetic improvements to residential properties.**

**EASTERN
OREGON BORDER
BOARD**

Aesthetic improvements to residential properties which include, but are not limited to:

- fences
- siding
- exterior painting
- window repair/replacement
- roof
- landscaping
- inviting entryway



915 SW 3rd Avenue Ontario OR. 97914

Please call for more information
541-889-9555

kathy@cina.team
balbina@cina.team

From: WELL.FUNDING Owrdr * WRD <OWRD.well.funding@water.oregon.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:50 PM
To: HOSHAW Jered L * WRD <Jered.L.HOSHAW@water.oregon.gov>
Cc: WELL.FUNDING Owrdr * WRD <OWRD.well.funding@water.oregon.gov>
Subject: RE: WARRF Funding Question

Hi Jered.

Thank you for reaching out and for the conversation this morning. Unfortunately, OWRD does not currently provide funding to replace wells that were impacted by flooding.

The two loan opportunities we discussed as potential options are:

[Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants in Oregon | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#) - A housing repair loan and grant from the USDA Rural Development Program
Waterwelltrust.org - – 501(c)3 organization created by the Water Systems Council to promote wells.

Past grant recipients have shared with us a few options that they have used to complete the work. These include temporarily transferring funds from a retirement or other savings account, loans, and contractor direct financing. For loans, some have opted for loans from friends or family, loans from a local community organization (such as a Community Action Network or religious organization), accessing a Home Equity Line of Credit, traditional mortgage, special funding options for Veteran's, or personal line of credit (some have indicated their loan costs less from a credit union than other sources). In some instances, the contractors or drillers offer financing either directly or through outside credit organizations. If they have different contractors for the well and pump or other work, they will typically make arrangements with each vendor separately.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

Lisa Kingsley | Well Fund Grant Analyst

Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund

725 Summer Street NE, Suite A Salem, OR 97301 | Phone 503-779-5763

Email: OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov

Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WARRF/Pages/default.aspx>



Integrity | Service | Technical Excellence | Teamwork | Forward-Looking

BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death.



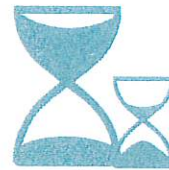
FEMA

FEMA V-1005/March 2018

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the U.S.



Results from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surge, and overflows of dams and other water systems



Develops slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning



Causes outages, disrupts transportation, damages buildings, creates landslides

IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.



Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Determine your best protection based on the type of flooding.



Evacuate if told to do so.



Move to higher ground or a higher floor.



Stay where you are.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS

Prepare NOW

Know your area's type of flood risk. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov/> portal for information.

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

If flash flooding is a risk in your location, monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.

Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.

Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

Obtain flood insurance. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Move valued items to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

Survive DURING

Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you have identified.

If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown.[®] Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.

If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

If trapped in a building, go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Signal for help.



FEMA

FEMA V-1005

Be Safe AFTER

Pay attention to authorities for information and instructions.

Avoid driving, except in emergencies.

Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.

Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.

Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [Ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods). Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **flood**.

Flood Safety Checklist

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters. Conditions that cause floods include heavy or steady rain for several hours or days that saturates the ground. Flash floods occur suddenly due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying area.

Know the Difference

Flood/Flash Flood Watch—Flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area.

Flood/Flash Flood Warning—Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

What should I do?



- Listen to area radio and television stations and a NOAA Weather Radio for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress or other critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- When a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, head for higher ground and stay there.
- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet.
- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Keep children out of the water. They are curious and often lack judgment about running water or contaminated water.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood danger.
- Because standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, it's important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site at www.FloodSmart.gov.

What supplies do I need?



- Water—at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Map(s) of the area
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- Rain gear
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Camera for photos of damage

What do I do after a flood?



- Return home only when officials have declared the area safe.
- Before entering your home, look outside for loose power lines, damaged gas lines, foundation cracks or other damage.
- Parts of your home may be collapsed or damaged. Approach entrances carefully. See if porch roofs and overhangs have all their supports.
- Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes that may have come into your home with the floodwater.
- If you smell natural or propane gas or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and call the fire department.
- If power lines are down outside your home, do not step in puddles or standing water.
- Keep children and pets away from hazardous sites and floodwater.
- Materials such as cleaning products, paint, batteries, contaminated fuel and damaged fuel containers are hazardous. Check with local authorities for assistance with disposal to avoid risk.
- During cleanup, wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots.
- Make sure your food and water are safe. Discard items that have come in contact with floodwater, including canned goods, water bottles, plastic utensils and baby bottle nipples. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Do not use water that could be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice or make baby formula.
- Contact your local or state public health department for specific recommendations for boiling or treating water in your area after a disaster as water may be contaminated.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If your community experiences a flood, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through RedCross.org/SafeandWell to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org

Flood

Preparedness Checklist

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods can result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges, overflows of rivers, and dam failure. Floods can be dangerous. People die by drowning when they don't evacuate before floodwaters come or when they enter floodwaters. Floods can damage buildings and roads, cause power outages, and create landslides. Floodwaters carry waste and pollute drinking water. Flooding can develop slowly or quickly. Flash floods can be sudden and violent. Climate change increases our risk of many types of flooding. But we can take action to prepare. Prepare now to protect yourself and your loved ones.



What to Do: Before



Understand Your Flood Risk

- Learn about the types of flooding that can impact your home and community. Types of flooding include flash floods, river floods, storm surges, coastal floods, burn scars, debris flows, ice/debris jams, snowmelt, dry wash, dam breaks, and levee failures.
- Reach out to your local office of emergency management for advice.
- Know your home and community's flood risk. Visit the FEMA Flood Map Service Center and search for your home using your address.

- River floods: Know if you are in an area that is prone to river floods. Review your evacuation plan so that you can leave quickly if officials advise you to evacuate.
- Storm surge: Be prepared to evacuate immediately if local officials advise. A storm surge can cause water levels to rise quickly and flood large areas in just minutes.
- Coastal flooding: Be prepared to evacuate immediately if local officials advise. Move inland before flooding begins.



Make Plans to Stay Safe

- Flash floods can be sudden and violent. You may have little to no warning. Designate a place on higher ground that you can get to quickly. Plan to move to higher ground before flooding begins.



Turn Around! Don't Drown!

- Never walk, swim, or drive through floodwater. Just 6 in (15 cm) of fast-moving floodwater can knock you over, and 12 in (30 cm) can carry your vehicle away.

What to Do: During

What to Do: After



Prevent Injuries

- Understand the dangers you may face and keep your loved ones safe.
- If you evacuated, wait for officials to say it is safe before going home.
- Avoid fallen power lines, poles, and wires. They can electrocute you.
- Watch out for falling trees and other debris.
- Use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns, rather than candles, to reduce fire risk.
- Many injuries happen during cleanup. Wear protective equipment, like boots, long pants, work gloves, eyewear, and an N95 respirator to protect your lungs. Follow the advice of local public health officials.
- Learn how to use equipment safely. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water because you could get electrocuted.
- Cleaning up is a big job. Take care of yourself. Work with a partner and take frequent breaks.



Protect Your Health

- Flooding can contaminate drinking water. Check with your local public health department about drinking water safety.
- Don't get sick from eating spoiled food. Throw out food that got wet or warm. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Stay away from floodwaters. They may contain sewage, sharp items, and chemicals that can make you ill.

▪ If your home was flooded:

- If possible, dry your home and everything in it as quickly as you can within 24 to 48 hours.
- If you cannot return to dry your home within 24 to 48 hours, you should assume you have mold growth. When it is safe to return home, completely dry everything, clean up the mold and make sure you don't still have a moisture problem.
- Keep wet areas well-ventilated. Throw away wet materials that can't be repaired or dried.
- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices should never be used inside a home, basement, garage, tent, or camper – or even outside near an open window. Carbon monoxide can't be seen or smelled, but it can kill you fast. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak, get to fresh air right away – do not delay.



Take Care of Yourself

- It's normal to have a lot of bad feelings, stress or anxiety.
- Eat healthy food and get enough sleep to help you deal with stress.
- You can contact the Disaster Distress Helpline for free if you need to talk to someone. Call or text **1-800-985-5990**.

Prepare so you can protect.

For more information, visit redcross.org/prepare

Download the Emergency App

