



Recovering from the 2019 Arkansas River Flood **What You Need to Know**

Damage Assessment

- As soon as it is safe to return to flooded areas, City employees will distribute information to affected homes regarding damage assessment. This is necessary to provide local, state and federal authorities with vital information so they can make disaster assistance decisions.
- ***If your home has had ANY floodwater in it, you will need to have a damage assessment inspection by the City. You can begin removing floor coverings, furniture and damaged appliances, but inspectors will need to document the level and extent of structural flood damage that occurred inside and outside your home.***
- As residents return, they can call or e-mail the Neighborhood Services office to schedule a next-day inspection appointment. Inspection times will generally be in half-hour increments from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- The phone number to call to schedule an inspection is 918-245-2500, ext. 2572. The e-mail address is neighborhoodservices@sandspringsok.org.
- The inspection should take a half hour or less. Copies of inspection reports will be available for affected residents in a timely manner at the Neighborhood Services office, 108 E. Broadway St. (next door to City Hall), or via e-mail.

Hazards Inside Your Home

- Floodwaters from the Arkansas River are troublesome for multiple reasons. Contaminants from streets, parking lots, other buildings, and septic and sewer systems are just a few.
- The river has a significant amount of salt and sand that combine to destroy the integrity of appliances of all types – including heating and air conditioning systems, hot water tanks, and electrical wiring and components.
- ***It is extremely important to purge water and natural gas piping if exposed to floodwaters. Electrical systems should not be energized if any components or wiring has been exposed to floodwaters. Doing so creates extreme fire and electrocution dangers.***
- Some of the potentially compromised electrical systems include Romex wiring, breakers, fuses, panel boards, circuit boards, outlet receptacles, switches, blowers, fans, motors, pumps, and heating and air conditioning units.
- ***Flood damage repair permits and inspections are required and will be issued and performed by the City at NO CHARGE to the resident or contractor.***
- Only state-licensed electrical contractors currently registered with the City can do electrical repairs in the city limits. Only licensed and registered plumbing contractors can work on damaged water piping and plumbing fixtures. Heating and air conditioning systems can only be repaired by licensed and registered mechanical contractors. Natural gas piping repairs can only be performed a plumbing contractors or mechanical contractors with a state license endorsement for such work.

If you do not live in the city limits of Sand Springs, you will need to contact the Tulsa County Permits and Inspections Office.

(Please see other side for additional information)

Animal Welfare

- The City's animal shelter is closed due to its proximity to the Arkansas River levee system, and all animals were evacuated in coordination with the Humane Society and SPCA as a precautionary measure. The shelter will not reopen until officials monitoring the levee system indicate it is safe to do so.
- ***If you need to board pets, you can do so at the Humane Society's flood shelter set up at the Tulsa Fairgrounds, 4145 E. 21st St. in Tulsa.***
- Animal Welfare staff are working regular hours responding to calls for stray, nuisance or dangerous animals. However, they cannot accept animals for drop-off or boarding at the shelter. Please take those animals to the fairgrounds facility.
- The City's Animal Welfare Division does not handle snakes, skunks, beavers or other animals considered wild by nature. Should you have such a situation, you should consider contacting a wildlife whisperer professional.
- ***The flooding conditions have placed great strains on pets as well as people. Normally docile animals may be more prone to biting. Do not approach animals running at large or others' pets who may be unfamiliar to you. Please caution small children about this. If a dangerous animal situation occurs, call 911 immediately.***
- It is critical to have rabies vaccinations up to date during these times. In the City of Sand Springs, a veterinary professional must administer vaccinations for a one-year or three-year immunity period. Residents need to maintain current vaccination record

Avoiding Public Nuisances

- Neighborhoods affected by Arkansas River flooding can expect to see increases in snakes, Scandinavian (river) rats, mosquitoes and other undesirable animals, rodents and insects. Treating stagnant water with larvacide (available at many general merchandise and home improvements stores) will mitigate the mosquito hazard.
- Food of any type should not be placed outside in unsealed containers as it attracts rodents, raccoons, skunks and other displaced foraging animals.
- The City will institute a trash and debris removal plan when it is safe for residents to re-enter flooded neighborhoods.
- ***Children should not play in floodwaters as they may be contaminated. They should also avoid contact with discarded trash or debris items, as well as tall grasses where snakes or rodents may be hiding.***
- Mowing high grass will be critical as flooded areas begin to dry out. In addition to reducing the snake, rodent and insect hazard, it will keep yards manageable for conventional lawnmowers.
- Only peddlers and solicitors licensed by the City can go door-to-door selling goods and services. Residents need to be aware of scammers or persons looking to take advantage of their unfortunate circumstances.
- For electrical, plumbing or HVAC repairs, only use contractors currently licensed by the state and registered with the City. Residents can do their own structural repairs such as drywall replacement subject to permit and inspection requirements as appropriate. If using a contractor for these repairs, residents should ask for and thoroughly check references.

The recovery process after flooding can take time, as well as great amounts of patience and caution. The health, safety and welfare of our community, neighborhoods and families starts with you!