

# Media Advisory

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## Take Action Now, Minimize Flood Losses Later

Individual property owners may do their part to minimize losses in the event of flooding. Some actions are best done well before floodwaters beckon. For example elevating costly items such as washers and dryers or suspending a heating system may spare later flood damage costs. Hazardous damage may also be incurred from sewer lines that backup during flooding. The installation of a backflow valve can prevent backflow problems. Anchoring propane tanks in flood hazard areas isn't only a good idea, in many places it is the law. The cost of completing the above remedies may well be worth the benefit of reduced flood losses.

Federal grants may be available to help local Montana property owners secure funds for mitigation projects, for property owners interested in selling or elevating their property. Many grants will cover 75% of the mitigation costs. Interested parties should contact their local Disaster and Emergency Services officer and/or their local Floodplain Administrator for more information. These local officials may be found by visiting <http://www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov> or by inquiring in local offices.

As an example of federal funds assisting Montanans, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program dollars through FEMA have been secured for properties in the City of Roundup, Missoula County and the City of Deer Lodge. Whether you choose to do something small or large, consider visiting <http://www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov>. Information at this site provides guidance on completing projects that may help your home withstand unexpected and costly damages from flooding.

On the whole Montana received unexpected rainfall in August, 276% of the average monthly rainfall was reported by the National Weather Service. Their records also show that a 1916 August rainfall record was broken in Northeastern Montana, in the City of Glendive and an amazing 1,062% monthly average of rainfall occurred near the small town of Saco, also in the northeastern part of the state. It's a good idea to be prepared and be ready for the unexpected by minimizing your losses for potential flooding.

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