



When will rising water reach your home?

The key to knowing is to know your river. If you've never experienced the river at or near flood stage, you may not have all the information you will need to help you guesstimate. Doing the following will help you become better prepared in the future:

Compare the reading of the river level gauging station nearest your property to the actual height of the water on your property.

(See [station map](#).)

You may also want to make the same observation on access roads since they often flood before the water reaches homes. Create your own "flood totem" by painting a line on a tree or piling of your house to use as a future guide. By making these observations you will have a reference to compare where the water may be on your property during the next flood.

During the next flood, obtain National Weather Service flood forecasts for the same station you used before.

If the station reading is predicted to be lower, the height of the water on your property should be lower.

If the station reading is predicted to be higher, the water height on your property should be higher.

Example:

Mrs. Smith lives near the White Springs river station. During the 1972 flood, the river level at White Springs was 89.3' msl. She noticed that during the flood, the water reached 7 feet on the pilings of her home. By comparing this year's expected crest to the 1972 crest, she knows that the water may be 1 foot above the 1972 flood. Because the river is expected to be 1 foot above 1972, she also knows that the water may reach 8' on the pilings of her home.

She also has made note of the level of the river when the flood waters begin to cover her road. That way she will be able to make a decision as to the best time to leave.

