

What caused Chartiers Creek to flood?

In September of 2004, the remnant storms of Hurricane Ivan drenched the Chartiers Creek watershed with between 5 and 8 inches of rainfall over a 24-hour period. This rainfall came after the remnant storms of Hurricane Frances had saturated the area just over a week before. The 5 to 8 inches of rain dropped by Hurricane Ivan caused the Creek to rise to 25 feet, far exceeding the flood level (18 feet).

What has been done to prevent future floods in our Communities?

The Chartiers Valley District Flood Control Authority (CVDFCA) began removing trees and debris from the creek bed and sides after the flood. It also cleared debris and sediment from the back channel, a long, flowing, and natural retention area into which water is diverted. The Army Corps of Engineers also removed sediment at 26 locations along 11 miles of Chartiers Creek. Additionally, sloped paving was replaced to stabilize the Pittsburgh and Ohio Central railroad tracks.

Are we in the floodplain?

Much of Carnegie and Heidelberg's Main Streets and business districts are within the 500-year flood plain. Smaller portions of the boroughs are within the 100-year flood plain.



What does a 100 or 500 year flood mean?

These are simply terms that are used to describe the probability of a flood happening in a given year. A 10 year flood has a 10 percent probability of occurring in any given year, a 50 year event a 2% probability, a 100 year event a 1% probability, and a 500 year event a .2% probability.

The probabilities are not guaranteed and the terms are most frequently used in determining flood insurance rates.

Will our communities flood again?

While there is no "yes" or "no" answer to this question, the boroughs, the flood control authority, and Army Corps of Engineers have been working to prepare the communities for future heavy rainfalls.

Know how you will be alerted to another flood.

Become familiar with your communities' alert system. Use your battery operated radio to listen for additional information if necessary.

Flood warning: ONE (1) STEADY – Continuous sounding of the siren with no intermissions ONE (1) MINUTE in length.

Evacuation Signal: TWO (2) STEADY – Continuous soundings of the siren with a TWENTY (20) SECOND INTERVAL – TWO (2) MINUTES IN LENGTH repeated THREE (3) TIMES. The siren will sound for FOURTEEN (14) MINUTES to serve as notice to evacuate flood prone and low-lying areas of the communities.

Determine the level at which your property will begin to flood.

Knowing the water level that will flood your home will allow you to be better informed regarding the necessity of evacuating your residence. The first step is to determine the flood level of the nearest USGS water level gauge, which is situated in Carnegie. The Action Stage is 14 feet, Flood Stage is 20 feet, Moderate Flood Stage is 21 feet, and Major Flood Stage is 23 feet.

Create an emergency supply kit.

Create an emergency provisions kit that includes items such as: medical kit, non-perishable food,

and water, batteries and a battery operated radio, flashlight, etc. Suggestions for items to include in these kits are available from the Nurture Nature Center (www.focusonfloods.org) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (www.Readypa.gov).

Know your communities' evacuation routes.

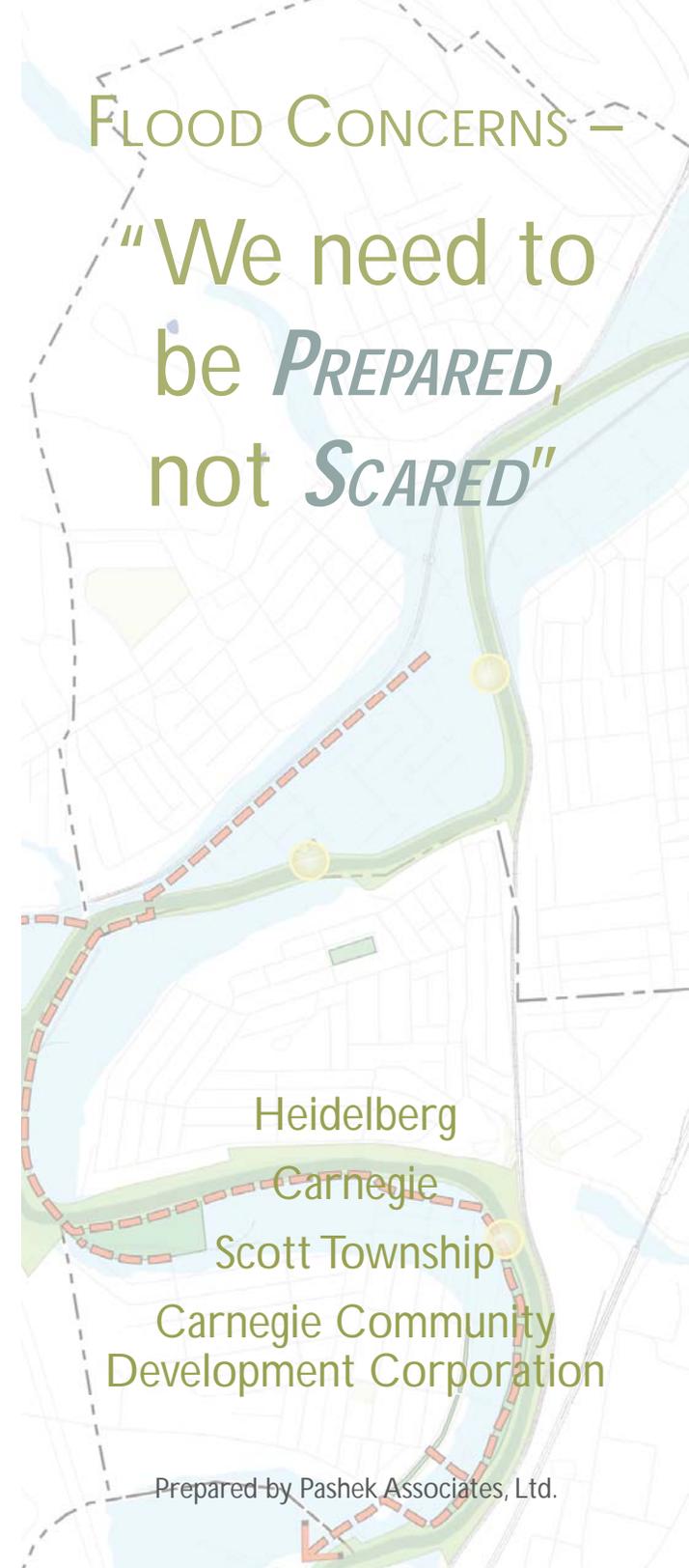
Know the routes from regularly visited locations such as home, work, and your childrens' schools.

Learn what you can do to prepare your property for a flood.

Prior to a flood, are there improvements or upgrades that you can install in your home to make it more flood-resistant? Common flood-proofing measures include raising the furnace and electrical and mechanical equipment.

Determine where your family should meet if they are separated during a flood event.

Determine if your family's workplaces or schools are in flood-prone areas. Also evaluate if roadways that access these places are prone to flooding. Determine the best way to access these sites in the event of a flood. If your family gets split-up make sure you have designated a safe place for everyone to meet.



FLOOD CONCERNS –
“We need to
be *PREPARED*,
not *SCARED*”

Heidelberg
Carnegie
Scott Township
Carnegie Community
Development Corporation

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