

Rockaway Beach survived flooding, isolation.

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With news reports saying about half the residents of Rockaway Beach were impacted by the flooding on the night of Dec. 8, the city is still in good shape to provide services, according to the city manager.

The city water is still clean and unaffected by the flooding, Lars Gare said during a break in the weather on Dec. 9.

"Our crews are out there correcting problems related to streets. We don't have any real (drinking) water issues. There are a couple of mains that were closed, but we'll take care of that."

"The water is perfectly safe," the city manager said.

"The sewer system is at its maximum because of the storm water that gets into

the sewer pipe," he said. "We got too much water in too short a period of time," Gare said. "We are going to get another wave of rain to-night (Wednesday night)."

There have been other problems reported. Flooding forced the fire department to move its vehicles from the fire station behind the city hall to other locations on Dec. 8. "Today (Wednesday) with the water receding, they were able to clean out the bays and get the equipment back in," Gare said.

"We had a power outage on the north side of town for about two hours (on Dec. 8)," the city manager said.

The city official asked that people be aware and keep an eye on their neighbors.

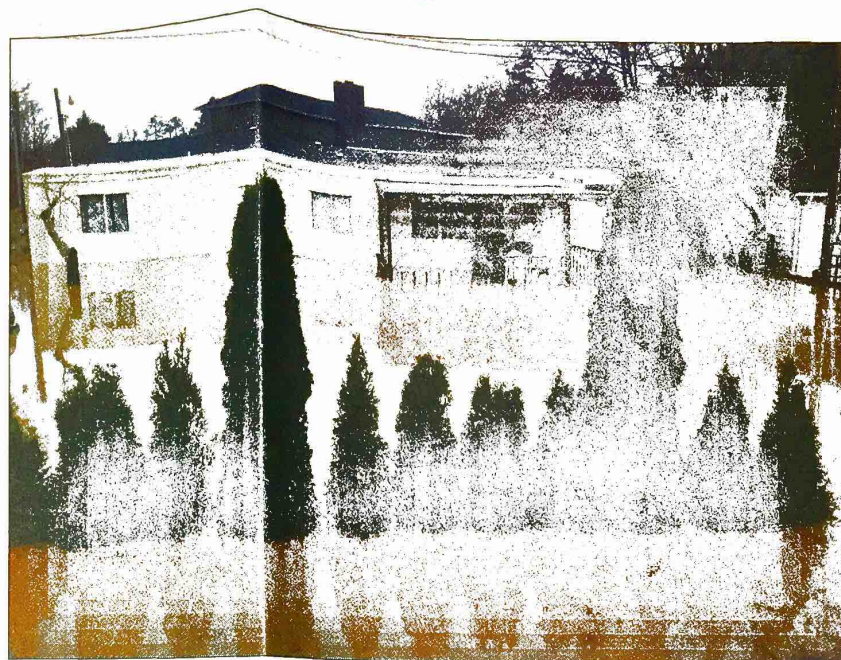
The city became an isolated island because of

landslides on Highway 101 to the south of town as well as a largest break in the pavement just south of the town of Wheeler, he said. "There were three slides I know of - one by Friends Camp, one at Barview and at Terwilliger."

According to one resident living near South Sixth Street in Rockaway Beach, the water had been slowly rising most of the early evening, only to rise more than two feet in about two hours, and forcing him to call the fire department for a boat to help evacuate his family.

"I have never seen it like this," he added.

Several of the churches in the community have helped provide shelter to people displaced by the flood, as well as other homeowners taking in their neighbors.



Flooding in Rockaway Beach forced many people to evacuate their homes Dec. 8-9.

Headlight Herald Photo/ Brad Mosher

Consult local Floodplain Administrator for permits

Tillamook County residents are urged to consult the local Floodplain Administrator and Building Official for information and permits when considering new construction or repairs on property affected by recent flooding.

Obtaining building permits for homes or businesses located within the 100-year flood plain is especially important, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For floodplain management purposes, the floodplain is the area covered by a flood that has a one percent chance of

occurring in any given year.

By visiting the Tillamook County Department of Community Development (DCD), residents may find out if their property is on a federally designated floodplain. This information is also available online at <http://msc.fema.gov/portal/>.

Additional permits may be required, such as a zoning permits and/or flood plain development permits, depending on the property location. Local governments cannot reduce or ignore the floodplain requirements for building or repair. Repair projects must meet com-

munity building codes and flood-damage prevention ordinances. These guidelines are important to communities and residents since they:

- Protect the residents, their families, communities, and buildings by ensuring all proposed work complies with current codes, standards, flood ordinances and construction techniques,
- Provide a permanent record of compliance with elevation, and/or retrofitting requirements, which is useful information when selling your home and necessary for the flood insurance rating,
- Provide suggestions or

literature on how to better protect your home or business from future disaster-related damages,

- Provide consumers with information on selecting licensed contractors and advice on protection from unscrupulous contractors.

Residents are asked to start construction and repair only after they have received permits from DCD. For more information on permits and zoning, please feel free to call (-503-842-3408. You may also visit the DCD website at <http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/Com-Dev/>.

Tips to file a flood insurance claim

As Tillamook County residents deal with the aftermath of severe storms and flooding that occurred this week, the recovery process may include a flood insurance claim. There are three steps to file a claim with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):

1. Contact your insurance agent.
2. Document your damaged property.
3. File a Proof of Loss form within 60 days of the

flood.

More details are available at www.FloodSmart.gov.

Keep in mind as you go through this process:

- You do not need to wait for a Presidential Disaster Declaration to file a flood claim.
- Your policy cannot be canceled for making a claim.
- A flood insurance policy is typically separate from a homeowner's insurance policy.

For general flood insurance questions, call your insurance company or agent or contact the NFIP at 800-621-3362.