



# OUR TOWN

*Where the desert meets the mountains.*

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## Important Town Message

### Local Flood Awareness

Many of Hailey's citizens are enjoying the plentiful amounts of snow this winter, in stark contrast to previous years. However, the abundant snow pack will eventually melt, and with the snow pack averaging about 150% of normal, flooding may occur this spring. The areas prone to local "sheet" flooding in our city are limited mostly to those adjacent to the river. These areas include the Della View, Robin Hood, and China Garden neighborhoods.

There are additional areas of the city that may be susceptible to flash flooding or the "100 Year" flood. These areas include many of the main roadways of Woodside Subdivision, and homes located between Blue Lake and Aspen Valley Drives, in North Woodside. This type of flooding would normally occur due to rapid melting snow or prolonged rain in the spring when the ground is still frozen.

While there are no indications that we are anticipating a 100 Year Flood event this year, the possibility of the river running over its bank is certainly a possibility at this point.

### Why Should I Get Flood Insurance?

- If you do not have flood insurance, do not wait for the next flood to apply. There is a **30-day application waiting period** before

the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coverage takes effect. However, it is common to have delays of up to 60 days if any part of the application is incomplete. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

- Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Hailey participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been previously flooded.
- Some people have purchased flood insurance because the lender requires it as part of their mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually, these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During a flood, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Therefore, if you are covered, check out the amount and make sure you have contents coverage.
- Even people who are not located in the "official" flood plain may be susceptible to flooding and may purchase flood insurance.



### Be Prepared...Flood Warning Systems

The City of Hailey in conjunction with the Blaine County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has begun active monitoring of the river levels and Big Wood Basin snow

pack levels. If the snow pack continues to increase, or the long term predictions are favorable for a potential flood situation to exist, we will provide public announcements via local radio, TV, newspaper, and through local emergency agencies. These warnings are intended to help people prepare, protect, and lessen their exposure to damages from flooding by establishing time frames and levels of flooding expected.

Historically, the city will initiate a flood watch when the river level reaches 4.5 feet. While the FEMA flood height is officially 6 feet, our experience indicates that the sheet flooding begins at about 5.8 feet and some homes have interior water damage at about 6.5 feet. You can also monitor up-to-date information by accessing these websites:

- [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv?site\\_no=13139500](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/uv?site_no=13139500) for current river levels.
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/rivers/awards/snotel> for a Big Wood Basin summary
- <ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/snow/update/id.txt> for individual Snotel station reports
- <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/BOI/ESFBOI> for spring flood forecasts

If you have any questions or if you are located in a flood plain or if your property has previously been threatened by flooding, please contact the City of Hailey Flood Plain Administrator Diane Shay at 208-788-4221 x 21.

Community Voice

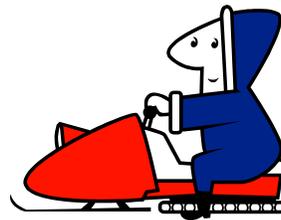
**A Message from the Sawtooth Snowmobile Club**

***Attention Snowmobilers and Parents of Snowmobilers***

The City of Hailey allows snowmobile operation on city streets but only to access riding areas outside of town. Snowmobilers need to obey the rules if we expect to maintain this privilege.

- The snowmobile speed limit in Hailey is 15mph!
- Snowmobile operation between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. is illegal.
- Drag racing, jumping snowbanks, riding in city parks or cutting across private property or just play riding around town is not acceptable or legal.
- Riding on or cutting across the BCRD groomed ski trail is not acceptable. If you wish to get on the other side, do it at a street intersection.
- Loud snowmachines are never acceptable operating in town.
- The four blocks surrounding the traffic light in downtown Hailey are off limits. We can ride River Street but it is illegal to operate on the streets surrounding, and within, the four block downtown core.

Thank you, *The Sawtooth Snowmobile Club*



**Note from the City of Hailey:** Legal operation of snowmobiles on public streets requires a valid driver’s license and a current certificate of liability insurance. For additional details of city regulations, please visit our website.

Calendar

**Important Dates**

Parks & Lands Board Meeting .....	02/07/06
P&Z Meetings .....	02/06/06
.....	02/21/06
City Council Meetings .....	02/13/06
.....	02/27/06
President’s Day * .....	02/20/06

\* *City offices closed.*