

Government issues flood projections

MOUNT VERNON - The last 100-year flood in Skagit County was around 100 years ago, so no one around here can get a clear picture of just how high the waters will go. FEMA, however, claims it has such a picture.

It is FEMA estimates of the 100-year flood level that determind how high people here will have to build under the flood insurance program.

To give citizens an idea of how a FEMA-approved ordinance would affect any new construction or substantial improvement they are contemplating, The Argus here gives a sweep of the required elevations.

Starting at the northern limits, near the river, the 100-

year flood level is around 33 feet mean sea level. The average ground elevation in this area is 27 feet mean sea level. So, this means an elevation of six feet.

Moving south and following the same process, the average elevation around College Way and Riverside Drive would be about five feet.

Farther down Riverside Drive, around the Willow and Alder Lane area, a resident would have to elevate his structure around six feet to avoid the 100-year flood waters, according to FEMA.

Moving into the downtown area, Gates Street, which is nearly the mid-point of the main commercial district, is at around 24 feet mean sea level.

The 100-year flood level, according to FEMA estimates, is around 30 feet, making for required elevation of around six feet.

At Kincaid street, the ground elevation takes a dip to around 23 feet. The 100-year flood level, however, stays at around 30 feet, meaning a seven-foot elevation.

The ground elevation keeps dipping, after this, to an average of 19 feet around Section Street. With a 100-year flood elevation of around 29 feet, citizens would have to elevate around ten feet.

Just up from Blackburn Road, along So. Second, the ground elevation goes to around 18 feet. The 100-year

elevation comes up a bit here to around 23 feet, meaning an elevation of around five feet.

On the west side, in the business plaza just off the bridge, the ground elevation is at around 20 feet. At a 100-year flood elevation of around 29 feet, most structures would have to be elevated around nine feet here.

At the Washington School area, the ground elevation is around 19 feet. The 100-year flood elevation is around 28 feet, requiring a nine-foot elevation.

Out by KBRC radio on Memorial Highway, the elevation goes down to around 16 feet, compared to a 100-year flood elevation of around 25 feet.

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