FLOODING AND EMERGENCIES...

THE FACTS...

Residents of Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler Counties are fortunate to have the Flood Warning Service (FWS) working for them. Environmental Emergency Services, Inc. (EES) is a non-profit organization, funded by the three Counties and the municipalities of the tri-county area. FWS is one of the funded projects of EES.

Storm information gathered by precipitation and river gauges, the National Weather Service, and local observers are plotted on maps and entered into computer programs by volunteers of the FWS. Flooding predictions and forecasts are then relayed to the Emergency Management Offices for the three counties. Emergency Management officials are then able to give warnings through the Emergency Alert System (EAS), evacuate residents if necessary, and take precautionary steps to save lives and limit property damage. Vehicles with PA systems may also be used to alert neighborhoods of an emergency.

As a resident in or near a flood hazard area, it is important for you to heed all warnings, follow the directions given in emergency messages, and make sure you have a battery powered radio or NOAA Weather Radio to receive warnings as they are issued. NOAA Weather Radios can be purchased in a wide variety of local electronics stores, home improvement centers, and department stores. It’s one of the best investments you can make in your family’s safety!

For more information and to volunteer with FWS, please check out our website at: www.highwater.org

NOW YOU KNOW...

You can help to protect your home from flood damage several ways:
- Raise your appliances and utilities above the flood level.
- Standpipes and pumps can also be installed to help prevent water from damaging your home.
- You can raise your entire house above the flood level.
- If flooding is not deep, you may be able to improve drainage to keep water away from your home.
- Install a water-tight seal to keep floodwater out of your well.
- Waterproof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method should be used on homes with basements or if water will not get over two feet deep.
- Emergency measures include sandbagging and moving furniture before water enters your home. Remember that sewers and drainage structures can also back up and be a cause of flooding.

Your local government offices can help with these and other retrofitting ideas, please call!