



# NORTH VALLEYS FLOODING WINTER FAQ

## 1. What caused the flooding in Lemmon Valley?

Our region experienced a combination of weather patterns beginning in the fall of 2016 that resulted in record setting snowfall, rain with subsequent runoff that created localized flooding. Particularly impacted were the closed hydro-basins in Lemmon Valley and Stead. Swan and Silver Lakes, typically dry terminal lakes, rose significantly in response to the flooding, resulting in standing water on roadways, on people's property and in some cases, within garages, crawlspaces, and in rare occurrences, within living spaces.

## 2. What does the future look like?

While it is not known what this next year's precipitation patterns, rain and snowfall will be, Washoe County continues our committed to maintaining the flood protections that are in place for the benefit of the Lemmon Valley residents.

## 3. How high will the water get during?

While there is no way to be certain how high Swan Lake water levels might get, Washoe County staff is maintaining the HESCO temporary flood barriers which provide protection to an elevation 2 feet higher than the designated FEMA flood plain and almost three (3) feet higher than the highest water levels experienced in 2017.

## 4. How will residents be protected during the winter?

Safety is our number one priority. The HESCO barriers, storm water pumps, and all the service contracts will remain in place. Staff will continue the ongoing monitoring of the area and make adjustments accordingly.

## 5. What can residents do to help protect their property?

While Washoe County will continue to maintain the HESCO barrier system, area residents are still encouraged to protect their property in whatever way they feel is necessary. Sand and sandbag resources will be provided as they were last year.

## 6. Will I have water on my property?

While this is a very difficult question to answer and it is dependent on many issues, there can be no guarantee that flooding will not occur.





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7. Washoe County would like to remind residents that as the water levels rise again over the winter, it may block access to some of the homes again.

For those homes that are individually protected, we encourage residents to be proactive and plan accordingly for the possibility of rising water levels through this winter and spring. This might mean moving out furniture and belongings, protecting domestic wellheads, etc.

8. Lemmon Drive – Current status?

Lemmon Drive was opened on August 4<sup>th</sup> from Waterash St. south. For safety, the roadway is posted at 25mph. It is anticipated that late winter/early spring storms will require reinstallation of the HESCO barriers and at that point Lemmon Drive will be closed again.

9. Lemmon Drive - Will the barriers be put back in place?

Lemmon Drive will be kept open as long as it is safe to do so. We do expect to reinstall the barriers that were removed to open Lemmon Drive if Swan Lake levels return.

10. Who can I call for information?

For all questions please feel free to contact Washoe311 at 3-1-1 or (775) 328-2003 or email [washoe311@washoecounty.us](mailto:washoe311@washoecounty.us).

11. How can I stay involved/participate?

With the action by the Board of County Commissioners, a flood mitigation planning effort is being developed and will require community members to participate. Washoe County will let you know when this process is started. In the meantime we suggest referring to Washoe County's website ([www.washoecounty.us/csd/lemmon\\_valley.php](http://www.washoecounty.us/csd/lemmon_valley.php)) to stay current on all the activities. And finally, you are always welcome to call and talk to someone directly.

