



How to Tell Whether You Live Behind a Levee



WHERE LEVEES ARE LOCATED

Many levees were originally built to protect farmland from flooding. As development has occurred these same levees now protect homes. The problem is that the consequences of a home's being flooded are a lot greater than those of a field's being flooded!

Large rivers tend to have many miles of levees. For example, levees line nearly the entire length of the Missouri River. In 1937, the city of St. Louis, Missouri, fought a valiant battle against the waters of the lower Mississippi River in major cities such as St. Louis, Memphis, and New Orleans.

Levees reduce the risk of flooding. But no levee system can eliminate all flood risk. There is always the chance that a flood will come along that exceeds the capacity of a levee, no matter how well it was built. Levees do not always perform as intended. In fact, levees sometimes fail even when a flood is small.

IF YOU LIVE NEAR A MAJOR RIVER OR OTHER BODY OF WATER, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT A LEVEE MAY BE NEARBY.

CONTACT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO FIND OUT ABOUT LEVEES NEARBY & IF YOUR HOME DEPENDS ON THEM TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING

CHECK THE [NATIONAL LEVEE DATABASE](#) FOR COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NATION'S LEVEES.