

Hydro Heroes Shares Foundation Protection Guidance Ahead of Atmospheric River Season

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Hydro Heroes, a Southwest Washington disaster cleanup and restoration company, has released comprehensive guidance on protecting residential foundations from water damage as the region prepares for its first atmospheric river system of the fall season. The educational initiative addresses the unique challenges different foundation types face during periods of intense rainfall.

The timing of this guidance coincides with weather forecasts indicating increased precipitation patterns typical of atmospheric river events, which can deliver substantial rainfall to Southwest Washington within short periods. These weather systems pose particular risks to residential foundations due to the region's clay-heavy soil composition and varying construction standards across different building eras.

"Understanding how your specific foundation type responds to heavy rainfall is crucial for preventing costly water damage," said Benson Morales, a representative from Hydro Heroes. "Each foundation design has distinct vulnerabilities that homeowners should monitor, especially as we enter the season when atmospheric

rivers bring concentrated moisture to our region."

Heavy rain affects foundations differently depending on their construction type and materials. Concrete slab foundations, common in newer construction, face challenges from surface water pooling and soil settlement when saturated ground conditions develop. Crawl space foundations, prevalent in mid-century homes, become vulnerable to standing water accumulation and vapor intrusion during extended wet periods. Basement foundations experience hydrostatic pressure against walls and potential water infiltration through window wells and foundation cracks.

The company's analysis reveals that poured concrete foundations demonstrate the highest resistance to water infiltration, while concrete block foundations require additional waterproofing measures to maintain their integrity. Stone foundations, found in many historic Southwest Washington properties, need particular attention due to their porous nature and mortar joint deterioration over time.

Preventive measures vary by foundation type but share common elements, including proper grading to direct water away from structures, maintaining functional gutters and downspouts, and ensuring adequate drainage systems. For crawl spaces, vapor barriers and proper ventilation prove essential. Basement foundations benefit from sump pump installation and regular inspection of waterproofing membranes.

The educational materials also address regional considerations specific to Southwest Washington, where annual rainfall exceeds 40 inches in many areas. The combination of high precipitation levels and soil conditions creates unique challenges that differ from other Pacific Northwest regions. Properties built during different decades face varying levels of risk based on the building codes and construction practices prevalent during their construction period.

"Property owners often underestimate how quickly water can compromise foundation integrity during atmospheric river events," noted Morales. "Taking proactive steps now, before the heaviest rains arrive, can prevent emergency situations that require professional intervention."

Hydro Heroes maintains 24/7 emergency response capabilities for water damage incidents throughout Southwest Washington. The company holds certification from the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification and specializes in water extraction, structural drying, mold remediation, and complete restoration services. Their team addresses water damage from various sources including flooding, burst pipes, roof leaks, and foundation infiltration, while also providing fire damage restoration, asbestos removal, and biohazard cleanup services.

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Hydro Heroes - Water Damage Experts

Hydro Heroes - Water Damage Experts proudly serve the Pacific Northwest with nearly a decade of experience. IICRC certified, we handle water, mold, fire, and asbestos damage. Available 24/7, we work with insurance to restore safety and peace of mind.

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