

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S DIGEST

March 6, 2009

HIGH WATER TABLES AND BASEMENT FLOODING (Mark Knudsen)

The Planning and Performance Improvement Department has received many inquiries from County residents regarding high water tables in recent months. These calls are coming from residents in virtually every portion of the County. Most of the residents are experiencing basement flooding...and many of them for the first time since they have lived in their homes.

Although no scientific studies have been conducted to pinpoint a definitive cause, it is known that our area has received an unusually high amount of precipitation over the past 13 months. In order to quantify this increase, the Planning and Performance Department compiled data showing the last thirteen months of observed precipitation. The table below provides a comparison between normal (i.e. average) precipitation levels and the observed levels between February 2008 and February 2009. It appears, in most cases, that the high water tables and basement flooding are directly correlated to the high levels of precipitation our area has been receiving.

Precipitation in Inches (previous 13 months)

Month	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul 08	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09	Feb 09
Normal	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	2	2	1
Observed	8	4	4	4	8	3	1	9	4	4	8	4	5
Increase	700%	100%	33%	33%	167%	0%	200%	125%	100%	33%	300%	100%	400%

Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service