Historic River Crests

- 3/2/1997: 51.80 ft
- 3/10/1964: 47.10 ft
- 4/14/1948: 41.60 ft
- 1/23/1937: 41.40 ft
- 5 people killed
- 1000 people lost their homes
- $50 Million in damage
- City received $3 million grant through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to acquire 83 lots
• Licking River drains an area of 3,600 square miles...10% of the entire state

• Cave Run Lake controls about 826 sq mi of the watershed...just 23% of the total.

• Vast majority of water runoff making its way to our county is uncontrolled.
- Tremendous amount of runoff made its way into Licking River quickly inundating Falmouth

- River rose 49 feet in two days...Raging river upon people before they even realized it
“The Great Flood of ’97” Video
- Heroic actions on the part of many...difficult recovery.
- Still no flood control measures...must remain vigilant and focused on preparedness and mitigation.
- Various updates/changes have occurred...better warning, response, mitigation efforts.
- Hopefully prevent people from suffering such tremendous loss.
Wealth of river data allows us to see where and how fast the river is rising all along its length.

National Weather Service forecasts River Levels at some of these locations:
- Can see predicted crests
- Get advanced warning.
Flood Inundation Mapping project recently completed for the City of Falmouth.
- Cincinnati Bell’s main telephone switch for Falmouth succumbed to the flood waters.
  - Caused widespread loss of phone service
  - Made it nearly impossible for citizens to communicate.

- Switch has since been moved to higher ground and equipped with a back-up generator.

- Cell towers, cell phone use and wireless technology have expanded and been upgraded since ’97.
• Internet service and all the information it brings to our fingertips is much improved

• Wireless internet capability throughout the county.
- 911 Dispatch Center was located in the Falmouth Police Department... moved to new location.

- Radio communications equipment has been upgraded and installed in buildings and towers far removed from the floodplain.
- We have a telephone emergency notification system that wasn’t in place in ‘97.

- Utilize social media extensively to get information to the public.
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Websites
  - Mobile apps
  - Text messaging
- Utilize Active 911…mobile app that provides information immediately to each first responders’ telephone.
  - Incident details, maps, directions, etc

- The world of wireless communications was nearly non-existent in 1997.
Communicate, coordinate and collaborate with other agencies: Critical to any disaster response and recovery.

**Responding Organizations**

- RJ Corman and CSX Railroad and Contractors
- Falmouth Police Department
- Falmouth Fire Department
- Falmouth Maintenance Department
- Falmouth Mayor and Staff
- Northern Pendleton Fire District
- Pendleton County Judge Executive and Staff
- Pendleton County CERT
- Pendleton County Search and Rescue
- Pendleton County Sheriff’s Office
- Pendleton County School Bus Drivers
- Pendleton County Red Cross
- Pendleton County Constables
- Pendleton County School System
- Pendleton County Emergency Management
- Pendleton County Dispatch
- Pendleton County Road Department
- Pendleton County Ambulance

- Alexandria EMS
- Northern KY HazMat Team
- Boone County EMA
- Kenton County EMA
- Campbell County EMA
- Kentucky State Police
- Southern Campbell Fire Department
- State Fire Marshall
- Williamstown Fire Department
- Walton Fire Department
- State EPA
- Federal EPA
- Three Rivers District Health Department
- Kentucky Emergency Management
- State Road Department
- Department of Transportation / Federal Railroad Administration
As emergency response facilities went under water:

- Responders were going from place to place escaping the rising waters
- Command and Control became extremely difficult.
- New Emergency Operations Center / 911 Dispatch Center built out of the floodplain.

- Designated back-up facilities ready to take on emergency operations should something happen at our primary location.
We have an assortment of mobile assets…much better equipped now than in 1997 to respond to and recover from a flood.
Conduct training and annual exercises for various disaster scenarios.
A terrible time in our history, but lessons learned from the past have resulted in numerous updates, changes, and additions.

We must

- Remain constantly vigilant
- Continually work toward preparedness and mitigation
- Plan for the future

“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.”
~Theodore Roosevelt
- 65 properties (83 lots) took the “buyout”

- Citizens vowing to rebuild the city were met with increasing insurance rates and decreasing property values

- Biggert–Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

- 2013 LIDAR was used to update Flood Insurance Rate maps resulting in rise of over 3 ft of the BFE in Falmouth
Recent increase in foreclosures due to the combination of rising insurance rates and rising BFE

Recent study conducted by my office and the Pendleton County PVA showed residential property values in the city and within the 1% floodplain decreased by as much as half since 1996.
- Falmouth has 1001 residential homes
- 875 occupied vs 126 vacant
- 478 or 48% are owner occupied
- 523 or 52% are either vacated or rental properties
Falmouth and Pendleton County have taken steps to create a sustainable economy

- Created the PCJPC, Comprehensive Plan
- Created a Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations
- In 2016 Falmouth adopted the State Model Floodplain Ordinance with higher recommended standards including a 1’ freeboard
- Planning Department has increased enforcement
FALMOUTH'S REVITALIZED GREENWAY

Future Land Use Plans
Falmouth and Pendleton Co created plans for sustainable development incorporated in the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan.

Future plans call for development to be out of the SFHA.
Flood Sustainable Development
• Campground
• Bait Shop
• Fishing Lake

Flood Sustainable Development
Pendleton County Public Library recently moved into a new facility out of the floodplain.
Pendleton County Ambulance Service recently moved into a new facility out of the floodplain.
Pendleton County Extension Office and the FSA Office

Before

After

RELOCATION OF FACILITIES
RELOCATION OF FACILITIES

Pendleton County Justice Center

Old Justice Center

New Justice Center
Critical Facilities in SFHA
Flood Sustainable Structures
Robbins Ave bridge replacement and sidewalk project
Historical structure renovated in a flood tolerable manner. Promotes classical aesthetics of the building.
Flood High Water Markers

March 2, 1997
High Water Mark

51.80 ft.

On this day, water from the Licking River rose to this level at this location.
Flood High Water Markers
Flood High Water Markers
- Floodplain Development meeting between state officials and community stakeholders held on January 17, 2017.
- Falmouth Outlook 20th Anniversary Edition of “Flood”.
- A community flyer sent with utility bills to Falmouth residents explaining flood insurance.
DID YOU KNOW

Standard homeowners insurance **doesn’t** cover flooding.

When floods threaten to damage your home, make sure they don’t damage your wallet too. Invest in flood insurance to keep your finances safe, even if the waters rise.

- Recent legislation phases out subsidies for some older buildings. As a result, rates for these buildings will rise until they reach full-risk insurance rates.
- Rates **DO NOT** differ from company to company.
- The contents of a building are insured separately.
- Renters are able to insure their belongings.

To see if your home is in the floodplain, visit: [http://watermaps.ky.gov/RiskPortal/](http://watermaps.ky.gov/RiskPortal/)

What affects Insurance Rates?

- Flood Risk (e.g. its flood zone)
- Age of the building
- Elevation of the Lowest Floor and building utilities
- Deductible & level of coverage
- Location of building contents

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Community Outreach
- Local floodplain development group addressing current economic and flood-related issues
- CRS Program
- NKADD group working on regional issues
- Interested in mandatory minimal storm water regulations statewide
QUESTIONS?