



Delta City  
76 N 200 W  
Delta, UT 84624  
435-864-2759  
[www.delta.utah.gov](http://www.delta.utah.gov)

## PRESS RELEASE

The numbers are in and the results of the amount of water Delta City received is astounding:

- The City received around 4 inches in 40 hours (starting just before midnight on the 17<sup>th</sup>).
- 2.8 inches of the total fell in 3.5 hrs on August 19, 2021 between 2:00 PM and 5:30 PM

When it comes to flooding, and planning of storm/flood events, generally the plan is to prepare for, on the low end, a 10-year storm, and on the conservative end, a 100-storm. To put this storm into perspective:

- 3.1 inches in 48 hours is considered a 1000-year storm (**we received around 4**)
- 2.6 inches in 3 hours is a 1000-year storm (**we received 2.8 inches**)

Well before dawn, with the assistance of the Millard County Sheriff's Office, the County Emergency Manager and CERT, sand bagging stations were up and running with volunteers arriving in droves to aid in the work. City Crews covered all corners of the City to ensure that drains and sewer pumps were running to capacity. Ultimately, canals outside of the City where storm drains empty to were simply full with more water coming in than those canals ever could have moved out. Corporate neighbors arrived with heavy equipment to move water from the canals into the irrigation canal system and uncultivated fields making way for more water to get out of the City.

It was and has been amazing to watch our community come together as neighbors helped neighbors though this experience. Delta City is not just the Mayor, Council, or employees, it is all of its residents (and really all the residents of West Millard County). And for that reason, Delta City is one of the best Cities in the State.

The elected officials and employees of the City are heartbroken about losses that so many residents have suffered; however, the flood damage was the result of an unprecedented rainfall that overwhelmed the City's drainage system. The City understands that at least one of the news networks reported that residents should report damages suffered from rain the area experienced over the last couple of days to the City. The result has been the Delta City Office being inundated with telephone calls. The City utility systems worked as designed and constructed, but unfortunately the storm was simply more than any event that could be expected for our area. The storm was an act of nature that could not be anticipated, and frankly would have been unreasonable to plan for. For these reasons the City does not have insurance coverage for damages suffered by its residents.

The City understands that most people that experienced property damage did not carry insurance for their losses. Because of that, the City has and will continue to look for resources that may aid those affected. However, it appears highly unlikely that aid is available from local, State, or Federal sources.

It has been asked why the City or County did not declare a state of emergency. That question generally comes with an implication that an emergency declaration would free up federal monies such as FEMA financial assistance for individuals or families. FEMA assistance requires not just that local, or even State authorities declare an emergency, but that *the President* declare that an emergency or major disaster exists. Such declarations are reserved for Katrina type events where national help is needed.

In our case, a declaration would have yielded, at best, State *response* support, and not financial assistance directly to residents affected. Largely because of planning set in place prior to the storm, and the helping hands offered during the storm, we (citizens, County, and Delta City) were able to source and fill immediate response needs without the assistance of Utah State. In other words, while we did experience an emergency, the emergency did not exceed our ability to respond to – and we (all of us) weathered this storm as good as anyone could have hoped for.

While the “emergency” may be behind us, we know there is so much work today. Local officials continue to find ways to help as much as we can and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

That being said, the City has maintained a No-Fault Sewer Coverage insurance policy. This policy offers a limited amount of no-fault coverage for damages caused by sewage that enters homes directly from the sewer system (not storm water). This coverage may assist citizens that qualify even though there is no-fault or negligence on the part of the City. In the near future, the City will disseminate information regarding this coverage, including the claims process. Please understand that this coverage comes with limitations, including a maximum claim amount of \$5,000.00 or less, depending on the number of claims that are made. Again, this coverage would only apply for sewage backflow, not storm water.



**LEGEND**

— Rainfall Depth Contours (in.)

**Rainfall Depth (in.)**

Value

High : 7.13

Low : 0

FIGURE NO. **1**

**BOWEN COLLINS & ASSOCIATES**

ST. GEORGE CITY  
**AUGUST 17 TO 19, 2021**  
**STORM ANALYSIS**

**DELTA CITY AND VICINITY**



SCALE:  
**1 in. = 2 miles**

D:\OneDrive\Work\Storm Analyses\Delta City\2021-08-01 Storm Analysis\4.0 GIS\fig 1 Vicinity Storm Map.mxd - chmrcs & 10/2021