

Make Flood Safety a Priority

What to do before, during and after a flood

Flooding accompanies storms when there is an excessive amount of rainfall, posing serious dangers to the areas affected.

Reduce Your Risks

- Check with your insurance agent to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Consult with a professional to raise your furnace, water heater and electric panel to 12 inches above the projected flood elevation.
- Purchase a fire extinguisher and sump pumps with back-up power.

Know What to Expect

- Know your area's flood risk; if unsure, contact your local planning/zoning department.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.

When a Flood WATCH is Issued

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.

- Fill your car's gas tank in case an evacuation notice is issued.

When a Flood WARNING is Issued

- Gather emergency supplies and fill bathtubs with clean water.
- Fill your gas tank.
- Tune your radio to weather updates, disaster directions and signals.
- If you must evacuate, take only essential items with you.
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades; they are there for your safety.

After a Flood

- Throw away food that is not safe to eat.
- Do not use tap water until local authorities determine it is safe for drinking and cooking use.

- Avoid interaction with the flood water and mosquitoes if possible.
- Stay away from damaged buildings and structures.
- Do not touch fallen power lines or turn your power back on until instructed to do so by a qualified electrician.
- Wear protective clothing when handling hazardous materials or cleaning up mold.
- Clean up flood damage promptly.



Prepare a family disaster plan...

[1] Keep insurance policies and other valuables in a safe-deposit box. [2] Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places such as a friend's home in another town, a motel or a shelter. [3] Keep written instructions for how and when to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.