



Flood Tips and Information

Are You Ready for a Flood or a Flash Flood?

Here's what you can do to prepare for such emergencies.

Know What to Expect

- Know your area's flood risk--if unsure, call your local Red Cross chapter or emergency management office.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.

Listen to Local Radio or TV Stations for Flood Information

Floods Can Take Several Hours to Days to Develop

- A flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area.
- A flood WARNING means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

Flash Floods Can Take Only a Few Minutes to a Few Hours to Develop

- A flash flood WATCH means flash flooding is possible in your area.
- A flash flood WARNING means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon.

Prepare a Family Disaster Plan.

- Check your homeowner's or renter's insurance to see if it covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing--

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person (one gallon of water per person for at least 3 days; often more is needed).
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.

- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Written instructions for how to turn off gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)
- Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places...a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

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...

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

When a Flash Flood WATCH is Issued...

- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a Flash Flood WARNING is Issued...

- Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades...they are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.