



FLOOD

Flooding is the most common natural disaster and can occur anywhere. Flooding can be localized in a particular neighborhood or widespread, affecting entire cities or large portions of states and territories. Floods can develop over a period of days, giving you adequate time to prepare; however, flash floods can develop in a matter of minutes. Flash flood waters can be caused by heavy rain, levee breaches or dam failures. Rushing flood waters can be deeper and stronger than they look. These waters are also destructive and can carry debris, rocks and mud.



How to Prepare for a Flood

- Determine whether your home or work place is in a predetermined flood plain.
- Stay informed and know flood terminology:
 - **Flood Watch**—Flooding is possible. Stay tuned to radio or TV for more information.
 - **Flash Flood Watch**—Flash flooding is possible. Stay tuned to radio or TV for more information. Be prepared to move to higher ground.
 - **Flood Warning**—Flooding is currently occurring or will occur soon. Listen for further instructions. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
 - **Flash Flood Warning**—Flash flooding is currently occurring or will occur soon. Seek higher ground on foot immediately.
- Get an emergency supply kit, and store it where it can be accessed.
- Know your installation's plan, and develop an evacuation procedure as a family.
- Safeguard your possessions – Create a personal flood file containing information about all your possessions and keep it in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. This file should have:
 - A copy of your insurance policies with your agents contact information.
 - For insurance purposes, keep a written and visual (i.e., videotaped or photographed) record of major household items and valuables. Create files that include serial numbers and store receipts for major appliances and electronics. These documents are critically important when filing insurance claims.
 - Copies of all other critical documents, including finance records or receipts.
- Prepare your house.
 - Ensure your sump pump works; install a battery-operated backup, in case of a power failure.
 - Clear debris from gutters and downspouts.
 - Anchor any fuel tanks.
 - Raise electrical components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers, and wiring) at least 12" above your home's projected flood elevation.
 - Place the furnace, water heater, washer, and dryer on cement blocks at least 12" above the projected flood elevation.



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How to Prepare for a Flood (Continued)

- Develop a family emergency plan.
 - Create a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid, blankets, a radio, and a flashlight.
 - Post emergency numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 911.
 - Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Know safe routes from home, work, and school that are on higher ground.
 - Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency family contact.
 - Have a plan to protect your pets.
 - Keep enough fuel in your car's tank to evacuate.

What to Do If There Is a Flood

- Stay tuned to the radio or TV for further information and instructions.
- If you are ordered to evacuate:
 - Take only essential items.
 - Turn off gas, electricity and water; disconnect appliances.
 - Do not walk in moving water.
 - Do not drive in flood water. As little as 6" of water can cause loss of control and stalling of a vehicle.
 - Follow the designated evacuation procedure.
- If you are NOT ordered to evacuate:
 - Stay tuned to emergency stations on radio or TV.
 - Listen for further instructions.
 - Prepare to evacuate to a shelter or a neighbor's home if your home is damaged.
- Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.
- Stay clear of flood waters, standing and moving, as they may be contaminated or deeper than expected.
- Beware of downed power lines.
- Avoid any roads where flood waters have receded as they may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Be extremely cautious when entering buildings; there may be unseen damage.
- Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by flood water, as it can contain sewage and other contaminants.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—<https://www.ready.gov/floods>
- FloodSmart.Gov—<https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>
- National Inventory of Dams—<https://nid.usace.army.mil>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>
- American Red Cross—<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/flood>
- Ready Army—www.ready.army.mil

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.

