



FLOOD HAZARD

A flood can develop slowly, over a period of several days, or it can develop within minutes, which is the case with flash floods. It is important to know the difference between a WATCH and a WARNING. A flash flood WATCH means that current or developing conditions are favorable for flash flooding in and close to the watch area, but the occurrence is neither certain or imminent. In contrast, a flash flood WARNING means that flash flooding is in progress, imminent, or highly likely.

For more information on flood hazards, please visit: <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

Before a Flood

- Build or re-stock your Emergency Kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies
- Make an Emergency Plan
- Turn on your TV/radio to receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage.
- If needed, place sandbags in front of your exterior doors to prevent water from entering your home.
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.
- Store drinking water in various containers and clean bathtubs. Water service may be interrupted.
- Be prepared to evacuate if necessary. Be familiar with your evacuation routes around your neighborhood.
- Keep your automobile gas tank filled; if electric power is cut off, gas stations may not be able to operate pumps for several days.
- Be aware of creeks and other low-lying areas around your neighborhood that are prone to sudden flooding.

During a Flood

- Move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwater. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening weather.
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road—you could be trapped or stranded. The depth of the water is not always obvious and the road could be washed away.
- Do not walk through moving water. Just six inches of moving water can knock you down.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground
- Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water, you could be electrocuted.

After a Flood

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways
- Stay tuned to local radio, television or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest news.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Avoid standing flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
- Assess damage to your home. Photograph the damage and contact your insurance company to file a claim.
- Contact local authorities to determine if tap water is safe to drink.
- Clean everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Check on your neighbors. Help people who may require special assistance, such as infants, children, the elderly, or persons with disabilities or access and functional needs.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood>
<https://www.floodsmart.gov/>
<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/flood.html>