



Listener Information: Flash Floods

To Prepare:

- Know your Flash Flood risk
 - Community officials or local emergency management offices are your best resources for learning about the history of flood plains in the area.
 - Ask whether your property is in a floodplain
 - If so then ask if it is above or below typical flood stage water levels.
 - Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are also used to determine risk.
- Have Disaster Supplies on Hand.
 - Flashlights and extra batteries.
 - Portable, battery operated radio and extra batteries
 - Tune to a local station and follow emergency instructions
 - First Aid Kit
 - Food and Bottled Water
 - Non-electric Can Opener
 - Essential Medicines
 - Cash and Credit Cards
 - Sturdy Shoes
- If you do live in a frequently flooded area
 - Take preventative measures and stockpile emergency building materials
 - Plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, nails, hammer and saw, pry bar, shovels, and sandbags.
 - Have check valves installed in sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewage drains.
 - As a last resort, use large corks or stoppers to plug showers, tubs, or basins.
- Have situational awareness in learning warning signs and your community's alert signals
- If time permits
 - Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve

Listener Information: Flash Floods (cont.)

- Move Valuables to upper floors or higher elevations
- Bring Outdoor possessions inside or tie them down securely.
- Sanitize sinks and tubs, then rinse and fill with clean water.

Once a Flash Flood Warning is Issues

- **DO NOT** drive through a flooded area
 - Turn around Don't Drown
- If your car stalls, abandon it and climb to higher ground.
- **DO NOT** Walk through flooded areas.
 - As little as **six inches** of moving water can knock an adult off of their feet.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires
- Look out for Animals (especially snakes)
 - Animals lose their homes in flash floods and may seek shelter in yours
- If you live in a flood prone area and waters get inside your house before you have evacuated
 - Retreat to higher floor or roof
 - Take flashlight and portable radio with you
 - Call and wait for Help.
 - **DO NOT** attempt to swim for safety, wait for help where you are.
 - If caught outdoors, climb to higher ground and stay there.

After the Flash Flood is Over:

- If you are home or in a building that has suffered damage.
 - call the insurance company or agent who handles your flood insurance policy right away to file a claim
 - Don't use matches, cigarette lighters, or any other open flames in case gas lines are leaking.
 - Use your flashlight instead to find your way around
 - Keep your power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety
 - Floodwaters pick up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, and factories. So throw out any foods or medicines that may have come in contact with floodwater.
 - Until local authorities say differently, boil water for drinking and food preparation vigorously for at least 5 minutes before using.
 - Check for gas leaks – leave if you smell gas or hear blowing/hissing.
 - Look for Electrical System Damage – if found, call for help.