BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

FEMA

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Pay attention to local officials and evacuate flooded areas. Entering floodwaters could result in injury or death.

A flood is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the world.

Floods . . .

can happen anywhere in the United States and its territories.

can result from rainfall; snowmelt; coastal or tropical storms; storm surge; and overflows of dams and other water systems.

can occur slowly over many days or happen very quickly.

can cause power outages; pollute drinking water systems; and damage homes, buildings, and infrastructure.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A FLOOD

Sign up to receive emergency alerts. Follow instructions from local officials.

Turn around, don't drown! Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.

Plan to evacuate AND be ready to shelter in place.

Move to higher ground or a higher floor to stay above rising floodwaters. Do not become trapped in a basement or attic.

Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.

Purchase flood insurance. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM®

HOW TO STAY SAFE

WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS

Prepare NOW

Know your area's type of flood risk and consider your personal risk of experiencing impacts. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov/portal for more information.

Sign up to receive emergency alerts and notifications from your local emergency management office. Learn what common alerts and warnings mean before you are impacted by a flood.

Purchase flood insurance. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.

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Have a communication plan to stay connected with family, friends and neighbors during and after a flood. Plan to text or message because you may not be able to make or receive phone calls.

Develop an evacuation plan. Consider where you will go and how you will get there. Practice your evacuation route.

Be ready to shelter in place. Evacuation is not always possible or the safest option.

Gather enough food, water and emergency supplies to last you several days. Consider everyone's specific needs, including medication. Have extra batteries and chargers for mobile devices.

Keep important documents in a dry, safe place such as a fireproof, waterproof container, and create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Move valued items to higher levels. Elevate critical utilities. Install a back valve and a battery-operated sump pump. Declutter drains and gutters. Use sandbags to create a flood barrier.

Survive DURING

Pay attention to weather reports and local news updates and stay alert for potential signs of flash flooding. Follow the instructions in all emergency alert notifications.

Evacuate immediately when ordered to. Do not underestimate the threat of flooding by failing to evacuate when it is safe to do so. Take critical supplies and documents with you when you evacuate.

Move to higher ground or the highest level of a building to avoid becoming trapped by rising floodwater but do not climb into a closed attic.

Do not attempt to cross floodwaters. Floodwater can pose a drowning risk for everyone — regardless of their ability to swim.

Do not drive through floodwaters. The depth of the water is not always obvious and just a foot of moving water can sweep a vehicle — even a sports utility vehicle — off the road.

Do not drive into underground roads or through tunnels during a flood.

Never drive around barriers blocking a flooded road. Floodwaters may have damaged the road or made it unsafe.

Be Safe AFTER

After an evacuation, return to your home only after local officials have said it is safe to do so. Pay attention to and follow guidance from local officials.

Do not assume your drinking water is safe to use or consume after a flood. Check with your local health department.

Stay away from floodwater. It may contain hazards, including sharp objects, downed power lines, sewage, bacteria, chemicals, diseased insects and wild or stray animals.

Be careful when going outdoors after a flood. Be alert for downed or unstable trees, utility poles and power lines.

Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.

Only use generators and other fuel-burning equipment outdoors and at least 20 feet away from building openings like windows, doors or garages to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Before attempting to clean up debris or repair any property damaged by a flood, hire a qualified flood adjuster. Remember to wear protective gear when you clean up flood debris.

Document any property damage with photographs. Contact your flood insurer to file a flood insurance claim. Register with FEMA for additional assistance.

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Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Visit **Ready.gov/floods** and use FEMA's **A Guide for Alerts and Warnings** at https://go.dhs.gov/3nN to learn more about flood watches and warnings. Download the free **FEMA app** to get more information about how to prepare.