



Are You Ready?

FLOODS

A Fact Sheet for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



Flood water can be dangerous. The power of six inches of moving water can knock people off their feet. Below are some tips to help you prepare for flooding in your area.

Plan ahead.

Ask your local emergency management or local Red Cross about the flooding history of your property and your community. Plan and practice an evacuation by contacting the local emergency management or Red Cross for a community flood evacuation plan. Know your needs and be prepared.

Stock up on supplies, such as:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cell phone with text message feature or two-way pager and charger to use in your automobile
- Portable TTY with extra batteries
- Batteries and back-up hearing assistive technology
- Portable battery-operated television with extra batteries and charger to use in your automobile
- NOAA radios with text alerts and visual and/or tactile alerts, or AM/FM portable radio if you can hear it with a neckloop or headset
- Extra contact lenses or eyeglasses
- Paper and pens
- First aid kit
- Food and water (for up to 72 hours)
- Non-electric can opener
- Cash and credit cards
- Work or hiking shoes/boots to protect your feet when walking thru disaster areas

Develop an emergency communication plan.

In case household members are separated from one another during a flood, have a back-up plan where you can meet each other. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be a contact person. After the disaster, contact that person by pager or TTY. If you don't have a pager or a working TTY, ask a hearing person with a cell phone to call for you. Be sure each household member knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

Be alert for these watches and warnings:

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible. Watch television or check your pager for warnings.

Flash Flood Watch: A flash flood is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground, and watch television or check your pager.

Flood Warning: Flooding is happening or will happen soon. If told to leave, leave right away.

Flash Flood Warning: A flash flood is happening. Move to higher ground above flood level immediately.

Make sure that all household members are prepared for a flood.

- Teach all household members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1, the police or the fire department, and which television channel to watch for emergency information.

During the flood:

If at home:

- Check your pager or turn on the television to get the latest emergency information.
- Get your emergency supplies.
- If you have been ordered to evacuate, leave immediately.

If Outside:

- Climb to the highest ground and stay there.
- Avoid walking through any floodwater. When the water is moving, even if it is only six inches high, it can carry you off your feet.

If in a Car:

- If you drive to a flooded area, turn back and go in a different direction.
- If your car stalls, leave the car and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have happened from people trying to move a car in a flooded area. Your life is more important than a car.

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During the Flood:

- If told to leave, please leave immediately.
- Evacuation is easier and safer before floodwaters become too deep and you are unable to drive through.
- Check your pager for evacuation instructions.
- Follow the evacuation instructions and do not take shortcuts or drive around "Road Closed" signs.
- Leave early to avoid floods in your area.

Use a stick to check through the debris. Look for loose plaster or ceiling that could fall on you. Take pictures of the house's interior and exterior for insurance records. Look for broken or leaking gas lines. Watch out for flooded electric circuits and appliances that may cause a fire. Throw away food, including canned food, that may have absorbed the floodwater.

Inspecting a damaged home:

Wear strong shoes and use a flashlight or battery-powered lantern when examining the building. Search walls, floors, doors and windows to make sure that the building will not collapse. Watch out for animals, especially snakes, that may have come into your home with the floodwater.

Information adapted from materials by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov).



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