

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



FLOOD SAFETY

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY



BEFORE A FLOOD

- ✓ Stay informed: Visit weather.gov or tune into your local news for the latest forecast.
- ✓ Determine whether your home, school or work is in an area likely to flood.
- ✓ Learn which roadways are likely to flood and find an alternative route so you can avoid them.
- ✓ Create a communications plan so your family will know how to connect during an emergency.
- ✓ Assemble an emergency kit.
- ✓ Prepare for possible evacuation. Pack your bags and include items for your pets so you are ready to leave at a moment's notice.
- ✓ Charge all essential electronics.
- ✓ Be Proactive: Leave before the flooding starts to avoid getting stranded.

DURING A FLOOD

- ✓ Stay informed: Tune into your local news for updates on flooding in progress.
- ✓ Get to higher ground if you are in an area that is subject to flooding.
- ✓ Follow evacuation orders and heed warning signs.
- ✓ If you have time before you evacuate, disconnect utilities and appliances.
- ✓ Avoid floodwaters: It is NEVER safe to drive or walk through them.



AFTER A FLOOD

- ✓ Stay informed: Tune into your local news for updates on affected areas and the safety of your drinking water.
- ✓ Avoid floodwaters: Standing water can hide chemicals that can make you sick, power lines that can cause electrocution and sharp debris that can seriously harm you.
- ✓ Avoid disaster areas: Your presence may hamper emergency operations.
- ✓ Heed road closure and cautionary signs.
- ✓ Wait for the "all-clear" before returning to an area that was impacted by flooding.
- ✓ Contact your family and loved ones to let them know you are okay.



Image from the FEMA Photo Library

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®

Most flood-related deaths and injuries could be avoided if people followed this simple advice: Turn Around Don't Drown®. More than 50% of flood-related deaths are due to someone driving or walking into floodwaters.

- ✓ 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock adults off their feet and sweep them away.
- ✓ 12 inches of moving water can carry off a small car.
- ✓ 18 to 24 inches of moving water can carry away larger vehicles including trucks, vans and SUVs.

If you come to an area that is covered with water, you may not know the depth of the water or the condition of the road or ground underneath. This is especially true at night, when your vision is more limited. Play it safe. Whether driving or walking, any time you come to a flooded area, Turn Around Don't Drown®.

Forces on Vehicles Crossing Streams



LEARN MORE

ABOUT FLOOD SAFETY AT:
weather.gov/safety/flood



For more information, visit
weather.gov/safety/flood

