

Emergency Preparedness

Due to Impending Weather, Be Prepared with the following information:

No one can stop a flood. But if you live in a flood prone area, there are actions you can take to protect your family and keep your property losses to a minimum.

Have a Plan

- **Plan and practice an evacuation route.**
- **Develop an emergency family communication plan. Select an out-of-town friend or relative for everyone to check in with if family members are in different locations during a disaster. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of this contact person.**
- **Keep your car fueled.**
- **Make sure family members know how to respond during and after a flood.**
- **Plan on how to take pets with you or provide for their care.**

Have Emergency Supplies

- Flashlight, portable battery-operated radio, and extra batteries
- First-aid kit and manual, and essential medicines
- At least three gallons of water per person
- Protective clothing, bedding, and sturdy shoes
- Emergency food, cooking equipment, can opener
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so.

During a Flooding

During a flood, listen to the radio for information, and evacuate immediately if instructed to do so. If you do not need to evacuate, bring outdoor belongings indoors. Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated. Do not attempt to walk through moving flood waters. Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. Move valuable belongings to upper floors or to safe ground if time permits. If instructed by authorities, turn off all utilities.

After the Flooding

- Even when the disaster has passed, major health and safety hazards remain. Flood waters may have brought toxic chemicals, pesticides, fire ant colonies, snakes, and other animals in and around your home. Serious injury can result for anyone dealing with the aftermath of a major storm, so it's wise to be overly cautious.
- Wait until your local emergency personnel have announced it's safe to return home.
- Wear protective clothing, gloves, and sturdy rubber-soled shoes when you go into an area or home that has been flooded.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Leave immediately if you smell gas.
- Do not turn on any lights or appliances if the house has been flooded.
- Watch for snakes and other animals forced into your home by flood waters.
- To prevent accidental fires, use flashlights, not candles, to see if power is on or off after a flood.
- Keep children and pets away from flood damaged areas. If pets must be walked outside, make sure they are leashed.
- Check for structural damage, such as loose plaster or damaged ceilings.
- Throw away all foods, including canned goods, that have come into contact with flood waters; they may be tainted.

KEEPING WATER SAFE

Tap water can become contaminated with bacteria, sewage, agricultural or industrial waste, or chemicals that can cause illness or death.

Chlorine & iodine disinfect but do not kill parasites.

Boiling (kills parasites): Strain water through a clean cloth. Boil vigorously for 1 minute. Let water cool. To improve taste add a pinch of salt or pour water from back and forth from one container to another.

Liquid Chlorine Bleach: Strain water through a clean cloth. Use common, unscented household laundry bleach. For 1% chlorine use 10 drops for clear water, 20 drops for cloudy. For 4%-6%, 2 drops for clear, 4 drops for cloudy. For 7%-10%, 1 drop for clear, 2 drops for cloudy. Drops of bleach to add per quart (4 cups).

Chlorine Tablets: Can be purchased from pharmacies and sporting good stores. If using these, make sure to store some in your emergency preparedness kit. Follow instructions on package. If instructions not available, use 1 tablet per quart of water.

Tincture of Iodine: Found in medicine cabinet or first aid kit. For clear water, add 5 drops per quart. For cloudy water, add 10 drops per quart. Stir and let stand for 30 minutes. Water should then be safe to use.

KEEPING FOOD SAFE

Throw out or Disinfect

The following items used with food or that are put into the mouth should be thrown away if they come into contact with flood waters: Paper, Styrofoam & other picnic supplies, baby pacifiers and baby bottle nipples, plastic or wooden containers and utensils.

Pantry Foods (Canned and Retort Packages): Remove label. Wash the can or retort package with detergent and a scrub brush (use hot water if available). Soak entire can/package in a sanitizing solution for 15 min. Let air dry. Re-label with a permanent marker. Use as soon as possible.

Refrigerator Foods: Foods should be safe to eat if the power was not out longer than 4 hours. Keep the door closed! If you know power is going to be out for a period of time, use dry or block ice to keep the refrigerator cool. Throw out foods if the refrigerator reaches 40°F for more than 2 hours.

Freezer Foods: A full freezer in good working order should keep food frozen for 2 days. A freezer that is half full will keep foods frozen for only about 1 day. Only open the freezer when necessary. Block or dry ice can help keep the freezer cold if you know the power will be out for a long period of time.

CONTACT US

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