

FLOODS

Floods occur regularly within the Community causing evacuations, damage and even injuries. Those living near riverbeds or other low-lying areas are most at risk, but anyone in a community is susceptible to flooding and can be affected. Hazards range from potentially deadly flash flooding to water contamination.

Before a Flood

- Regular home- owners' insurance does not cover flood losses.
- Know how to get to higher ground from your home.
- Learn your community's flood evacuation routes.
- Ask local officials how you can protect your home.

Terms to Know

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible within 12 to 36 hours.

Flash Flood Watch: Flash flooding is possible and could occur without warning. Prepare to move to higher ground if at risk.

Flood Warning: Flooding is or soon will be occurring. Evacuate immediately if advised.

Flash Flood Warning: Flash flooding is occurring. Move to higher ground at once if you are at risk.

Protecting Your Property

- ✓ If your home is prone to flooding, elevate your furnace, water heater and electric panel.
- ✓ Waterproof your walls stop seepage.
- ✓ Build barriers; flood walls, levees to keep out flood water or use sandbags as a temporary measure.
- ✓ Store insurance policies and other records in a safe deposit box.

During a Flood

- ✓ Stay tuned to radio or TV for updates.
- ✓ Watch for flash flooding. This can occur without rain clouds or rain in the immediate area.
- ✓ Avoid low-lying areas such as canyons and drainage channels.
- ✓ Never walk through moving water more than 6 inches deep.
- ✓ Do not drive through flooded areas.
- ✓ If your vehicle stalls in water, exit it and move to higher ground.
- ✓ Evacuate if instructed to by authorities and return home only when they say it's safe.
- ✓ Look for mudslides; changes in the landscape, leaning trees, poles or fences; widening cracks in the driveway or street; or the ground bulging out at the base of a slope or hill.
- ✓ Be prepared to evacuate if you feel threatened.
- ✓ While driving, watch for signs like fallen rocks and mud in the roadway. Embankments along roadsides can slide with little or no notice.
- ✓ Move quickly away from the path of the slide.
- ✓ If you cannot escape, curl into a ball and protect your head.

After a Flood

- ✓ Be careful in areas where floodwaters have receded.
- ✓ Watch for downed electrical lines and weakened roads and bridges.
- ✓ Stay out of flooded buildings.
- ✓ Use caution when entering damaged structures. Their foundation may have weakened.
- ✓ Avoid coming into contact with floodwater, it may be contaminated. Wash your hands if they get wet.
- ✓ Discard any food that has been in contact with floodwater.

Did You Know: Cars can be easily swept away in just 2 feet of moving water.