

## FLOOD SAFETY

In low lying and flood prone areas

When a flash flood **WATCH** is issued, be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a flash flood **WARNING** is issued for your area, or the moment you realize that a flash flood is imminent, act quickly to save yourself. **You may have only seconds!**

Before the flood

- Know your flood risk and elevation above flood stage.
  - Do your local streams or rivers flood easily? If so, be prepared to move to a place of safety. Know your evacuation routes.
- Keep materials on hand like a supply of plastic garbage bags, shovels, work boots and gloves.
- Be prepared for evacuation.
- Keep your automobile fueled; if electric power is cut off, gas stations may not be able to operate pumps for days
- Keep first aid supplies on hand.
- Keep a battery powered portable radio with extra batteries and flashlights.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and other low lying and flood prone areas during threatening conditions.

During the flood

- Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood, so you or your evacuation routes are not cut off.
- If asked by local officials, quickly evacuate to avoid being cut off by flood water
- Avoid driving into water of unknown depth, especially in periods of low visibility. The depth of water is not always obvious. The road bed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped. Moving water can quickly sweep your vehicle away. Standing water deep enough to cover wheels can cause cars to float. If vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Remember, it's better to be wet than dead!
- If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, STOP! Turn around and go another way.
- Package important documents in waterproof containers.
- If time permits, move furnishings to safe ground.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

## After the flood

- Do not use fresh food that has come in contact with floodwaters. Wash canned goods that came in contact with floodwaters with soap and hot water.
- Do not drink tapped water without first boiling.
- Seek necessary medical care at the nearest hospital.
- Restrict children from playing in flooded areas. Hidden sharp objects are a safety hazard. If kids do play in standing water, bathe them as soon as possible and watch for signs of infection or disease.
- Do not handle electrical equipment in wet area; electrical equipment should be checked and dried before returning to service.
- Use flashlights, not lanterns, matchers candles or torches, to examine buildings; flammables may be inside.
- Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations.