

# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS



## Prepare NOW

**Know your area's type of flood risk.** Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal> for information.

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**If flash flooding is a risk in your location,** monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.

**Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.**

**Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately or if services are cut off.** Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

**Obtain flood insurance.** Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

**Keep important documents in a waterproof container.** Create password-protected digital copies.

**Protect your property.** Move valued items to higher levels. De-clutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.



## Survive DURING

**Depending on where you are,** and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you have identified.

**If told to evacuate, do so immediately.** Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

**Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems** for current emergency information and instructions.

**Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.** Turn Around. Don't Drown.® Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

**Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water.** Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.

**If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water,** stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

**If trapped in a building, go to its highest level.** Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Signal for help.



## Be Safe AFTER

**Listen to authorities for information and instructions.**

**Avoid driving, except in emergencies.**

**Be aware that snakes and other animals** may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.

**Avoid wading in floodwater,** which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

**Use a generator or other** gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from windows.

**Be aware of the risk of electrocution.** **Do not touch electrical equipment** if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.

## Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **ready.gov** and search for **flood**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **flood**. Find Emergency Safety Tips under Prepare.