



Floods

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Remember that the sheer force of just six inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet. Cars are easily swept away in just two feet of water.

Know the difference between a “flood watch” and a “flood warning.”

A flood watch

A flood watch is issued by the National Weather Service when flooding is possible within the designated watch area. Be alert!

A flood warning

A flood warning is issued when flooding has been reported or is imminent — take necessary precautions.

What to do before a flood

- Purchase flood insurance.
- Listen to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for current information.
- Keep your car filled with gas.
- Plan for evacuation. Know where you are going and how to get there.
- Take steps to flood-proof your home. Call your local building department or office of emergency management for information.
- Keep all insurance policies and your household inventory in a safe place.
- Take photos or a videotape of your belongings in the home.

What to do during a flood

- Do NOT try to walk or drive through flooded areas.
- Stay away from moving water. Moving water six inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- Stay away from disaster areas unless authorities ask for volunteers.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Be aware of areas where flood waters may have receded and may have weakened road surfaces.
- Don't throw damaged goods away until an official inventory has been taken.
- Throw away all food that has come in contact with flood waters.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with flood waters.

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