

Since 1970, every county in Washington has received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for flooding. Flooding can cause injury and loss of life as well as damage to structures, crops, land, roads, and utilities. Floods also cause landslides and transport debris and toxic products.

When it comes to flooding, much of the work must be done ahead of time - before an event occurs. Take preparedness action now to minimize your risk and reduce the time and effort it takes to recover from a flood.

Disaster Supplies: Be 2 Weeks Ready

- Store one gallon of water per person per day, bleach for purifying
- Store non-perishable food for each person per day
- Medications / first aid supplies
- Flashlight / extra batteries / light sticks
- Toiletries (including toilet paper, feminine supplies, soap, personal hygiene supplies, etc.)
- Important documents (wills, insurance papers, etc.)
- Money, including change
- Multi-purpose tools, garbage & zip lock bags
- Radio (battery or wind-up) / extra batteries
- Special needs (elderly, baby, pets)
- Extra clothes / shoes / blankets

Note: Make everyone in your family a grab & go kit in case you need to evacuate; make it light enough to easily carry. Make one for pets too.

For additional information visit these websites:

- Washington State Emergency Management:
www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division
- Washington State Department of Ecology:
www.ecy.wa.gov/services/gis/data/flood/flood.htm
- FloodSmart:
www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart
- National Flood Insurance Program:
www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program
- United States Environmental Protection Agency:
www.epa.gov/naturalevents/flooding.html
- United States Geological Survey:
http://wa.water.usgs.gov/water_issues/flood.htm
- United States Search & Rescue Task Force:
www.ussartf.org/flooding.htm
- Federal Emergency Management Agency:
www.fema.gov

Flood Preparedness Videos

www.youtube.com/user/EMDPrepare/videos



Flooding



Washington State Emergency Management

www.milwa.gov/emergency-management-division

Before a Flood...

There is time now to be proactive; take actions that will help you should a flood happen in your area.

- Contact your local Emergency Management Office and local building department to find out if you are in a flood zone or flood pathway.
- Purchase flood insurance.
- Keep all insurance policies and a list of valuable items in a safe place.
- Take photos or a videotape of your valuables.
- Prepare your home - clear debris from gutters and clear storm drains.
- Identify and practice your flood evacuation routes (*Plan multiple evacuation routes in case one route is flooded and becomes impassable*)
- Prepare disaster supply kits for your home, workplace, and vehicle.
- Purchase a windup/battery operated NOAA Weather alert radio, extra batteries.
- Know what emergency plans are in place at your workplace, school and daycare center.
- Update your Out-of-Area Contact cards.
- Organize you neighborhood (use the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program: www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_neighborhoods.shtml)
 - * Find out who in your area might need special assistance, specifically the young, elderly, disabled, or non-English speaking neighbors.
- Check with your veterinarian for animal care instructions in an emergency situation.
- Keep your car filled with gas.



During a Flood...

There may be very little time to take action and get to safety; you must be ready to go.

- When severe weather is predicted, be sure to monitor your weather radio, local TV / radio station, or your mobile app for alerts and instructions.
- If water rises quickly, or if you are advised to evacuate.
- Move quickly to higher ground.
- If you have time before leaving the house turn off utilities.
- Take your disaster supply kit and your important documents.
- Check for shelter sites if you need a safe place to stay.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Do not attempt to walk across flowing streams - as little as 6 inches of rapidly flowing water can knock you off your feet.
- Do not attempt to drive through standing water on roadways:
 - * As little as 2 feet of water can float most vehicles.
 - * The roadbed may have washed away or be unstable.

If you must stay in place:

- If water rises in or around your home and you become trapped inside:
 - * Move to a higher floor, attic, or even the roof.
 - * Take a cell phone with you and call for help. Wait for assistance to arrive - do not try to swim.
 - * Take a battery-operated radio and listen for information and updates.



After a Flood...

There can be many hazards in or around your home.; be alert and take appropriate safety precautions.

- Return to your home *only after* an "ALL CLEAR" has been issued by local authorities.
- Keep electricity turned off until a qualified electrician has inspected your system.
- Before entering your home, check for structural damage and other hazards such as exposed electrical wires. Avoid weakened floors, walls, and rooftops.
- Open all doors and windows. Use fans if possible to air out the building.
- Do not use your septic system when water is standing on the ground around it. The ground below will not absorb water from sinks or toilets. When the soil has dried, it is probably safe to use your septic system. To be sure, contact your local health department.
- If your well is flooded, your tap water is probably unsafe; learn how to decontaminate it; learn how to purify water.
- If you have public water, the health department will let you know, through radio and television, if your water is not safe to drink. Until your water is safe, use bottled water.
- If you come in contact with floodwaters wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water.
- Wear gloves and boots when cleaning up.
- Discard all food that has come into contact with floodwater. Canned food is alright, but thoroughly wash the can before opening.
- Washing dirt and mud from walls, counters, and hard surfaced floors with soap and water. Disinfect surfaces by wiping with a solution of one cup bleach per gallon water.
- Wash all clothes and linens in hot water.
- Discard mattresses and stuffed furniture; they cannot be adequately cleaned.
- Do not pump the basement out until floodwater recedes.

Watch our flood videos:
www.youtube.com/user/EMDPrepare/videos