

Collaborative Healthcare Urgency Group

A.R.M.E.D. TIP SHEET

Vol. 1 Edition 13

Flooding

Before a Flood Occurs:

Contact your local American Red Cross or your local Office of Emergency Management to determine your flooding risk. Are you near a river or lake that is likely to experience rising waters? Is flash flooding a concern?

Learn how your community notifies residents of a flooding emergency.

If you live in a frequently flooded area, stockpile emergency supplies for flood preparation and home repair like plywood, nails and screws, shovels, sandbags, and plastic tarps.

Consider having your plumbing retrofitted with valves to prevent sewage backing up into your home.

Get a copy of your community's flood evacuation plan.

Keep your 72-hour Disaster Go-Kit stocked, updated, and easily accessible.



During a Flood Emergency:

Listen to your battery-operated radio or television for situation updates.

Stay in touch with your out-of-town contact to update them on your location and condition.

Store as much clean water as possible, as your municipal water may become contaminated as floodwaters rise.

Secure valuable household possessions and important documents on an upper floor of your home.

Be prepared to evacuate on short notice. Pre-load your car with your disaster kit and any other items you will need when you evacuate and park your car facing your route of escape.

Do not drive through flooded streets. Even if the water does not appear to be deep, the road may be washed out or damaged.

Do not attempt to wade through moving water, even small amounts of moving water can be deadly.

After the Flood:

While a flood-in-progress is certainly dangerous, there are many dangers that exist after a flood as well. Return to your home only after authorities give permission to do so.

Use extreme caution when entering a previously flooded building. Structural integrity may have been seriously compromised, snakes, insects, and other hazards may exist in the building, and sewage may be present.

Wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing from your disaster kit. Wash your hands regularly while working in a previously flooded building, and wear a protective mask.

Watch for downed power lines; always assume they are "live" unless told by power company officials that they are safe.

Do not turn your electricity on until an electrician has checked your building's wiring.

Take pictures of the damage and have your **home inventory** handy for comparison when you work with your insurance company.

Excerpted from: MyDisasterPlan.com
Visit MyDisasterPlan.com for more information