

How to be Prepared for a Flood



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Floods, big or small, can have devastating effects on your home and your family. Floodwater and standing waters can be dangerous and can make you vulnerable to infectious diseases, hazardous chemicals, and injuries. Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risks by following these tips.

Stay safe by planning ahead

- Tip 1**
- Are you in a flash-flood prone area? Contact the local county planning department to find out if your home is located in a flash-flood-prone area or landslide-prone area.
 - Make a flood emergency plan with your family.
 - Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.
 - Stay informed by learning about your community's emergency plans, warning signals, evacuation routes, and locations of emergency shelter.

Get your home ready for a flood

- Tip 2**
- Make sure you secure or protect any hazards in your home before the flood strikes.
 - Be prepared to turn off electrical power when there is standing water, fallen power lines, or before you evacuate. Turn off gas and water before you evacuate.
 - Buy a fire extinguisher, make sure you and your family know where it is and how to use it.
 - Buy and install sump pumps with back-up power.
 - For drains, toilets, and other sewer connects, install backflow valves to prevent floodwaters from entering.

If you are under a flood watch or warning

- Tip 3**
- Gather the emergency supplies previously stocked in your home and stay tuned to local radio or TV station for updates.
 - Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary.
 - Have your immunization records handy or be aware of your last tetanus shot, in case you should receive a puncture wound or a wound becomes contaminated during or after a flood.
 - Prepare an emergency water supply. Store at least 1 gallon of water per day for each person and pet. Store at least a 3 day supply.

Flood Watch vs. Flood Warning

- A flood watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.
- A flood warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Create an emergency supply kit

Stock your home with supplies you may need during the flood by creating an emergency supply kit. Be sure to include the following supplies:

- An emergency kit for your car with food, flares, booster cables, maps, tools, a first aid kit, etc.
- Rubber boots, sturdy shoes, and waterproof gloves.
- Insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin and protective clothing to protect against mosquitoes that may gather in pooled water after the flood.

Prepare to Evacuate

Never ignore an evacuation order.

- Fill your vehicle's gas tank or make arrangements for transportation.
- Gather essential documents.
- Fill clean water containers.
- Listen to weather updates.



Loup Basin
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT