



# WHAT TO DO DURING A FLOOD

**Check the items in your Emergency Kit and review your family emergency plan  
Listen for instructions from public safety officers and the National Weather Service.**

## **Flood or Flash Flood Watch:**

Issued by the National Weather Service and means flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area.

## **Flood or Flash Flood Warning:**

Issued by the National Weather service and means a flood or flash flood will occur very soon or is already occurring.

### **Protect your home and secure valuables.**

- Fill bathtubs, sinks and jugs with clean water in case tap water supplies become contaminated. *Tip: Sanitize the sinks and bathtubs by using bleach. Rinse, then fill with clean water.*
- Move valuables, such as papers, furs, jewelry and clothing to upper floors or higher elevations.
- Bring outdoor items inside or tie down securely, for example lawn furniture, grills and trashcans.
- If waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic, and if necessary, the roof.
- If public officials instruct you to do so, shut off water and electricity.
- Leave natural gas service ON unless local officials advise you otherwise.

### **Prepare to evacuate, in case public safety officials direct you to do so.**

- Fill your car's gas tank, or listen for evacuation instructions for those who depend on public transit.
- If told to evacuate by public safety officials, do so immediately. See the **Evacuation instructions.**

## **EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Avoid coming in contact with floodwaters.**

- Wash your hands with soap and disinfected water if you touch floodwaters. Floodwaters may carry raw sewage, chemical waste and other disease-spreading substances.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. Electric current passes easily through water.
- Do not try to swim to safety!
- Do not drive, walk or swim through flood waters. Remember: *Turn Around, Don't Drown!*
- Look out for animals, especially snakes that may be seeking higher ground to avoid floodwaters.

### **If Directed To Evacuate:**

- Do not evacuate unless or until directed to do so by public safety officials.
- When directed to evacuate, follow the instructions you are given by public safety officials. Heed their advice immediately.
- Leave as soon as possible.
- Bring your Emergency Kit.
- Dress for the prevailing weather conditions, at minimum a long sleeve shirt, pants, and sturdy shoes.

- Take your pets with you. Remember that pets (other than assistance animals for people with disabilities) are not permitted in emergency shelters. You must follow your plan to go to a friend's home or a pet-friendly hotel.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities - don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.
- Avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Stay away from downed power lines.

### **If you are sure you'll have time:**

- Call your family contact to tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive.
- Shut off water and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so. Leave natural gas service ON unless local officials advise you otherwise.
- Listen to local authorities. They will provide you with the most accurate information specific to an event in your area. Stay tuned to local radio and television. A battery-powered radio is a vital part of your Emergency Kit.