

FLASH FLOOD SAFETY GUIDE

BEFORE A FLASH FLOOD

- **Know your risk:** Review FEMA Flood Maps and local hazard maps to identify flood-prone areas.
- **Stay informed:** Sign up for Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), NOAA Weather Radio, and local alerts.
- **Prepare an emergency kit:** Include water, food, flashlight, batteries, charger, medications, documents, and first aid.
- **Plan evacuation routes:** Choose multiple routes and avoid low-lying areas or stream crossings.
- **Protect property:** Clear drains, elevate appliances, and consider sump pumps or backflow valves. Take photos inside and outside of your home in case of damage after the storm.

DURING A FLASH FLOOD

- **Monitor official updates:** Follow National Weather Service and local authorities.
- **Avoid floodwaters:** Six inches of moving water can knock you down; one foot can sweep away most vehicles.
- **Move to higher ground: Do not wait for instructions if water is rising nearby!** Even small creeks or ditches can swell rapidly during a flash flood.
- **Avoid basements:** Go to the highest accessible level, but avoid sealed attics without exits.
- **Turn Around, Don't Drown®:** Never attempt to drive through floodwater. Abandon the vehicle if necessary.
- **Avoid bridges over fast-moving water:** The structure may be unstable, and the water could rise suddenly.
- **Stay away from downed power lines:** Floodwaters can conduct electricity from damaged electrical systems.

IF YOU'RE SWEEPED AWAY BY FLOODWATERS

- **Don't fight the current:** Try to float on your back, point your feet downstream, and look for a chance to grab onto something stable.
- **Call for help loudly:** Attract attention from rescuers or nearby people.
- **Avoid debris:** Keep clear of floating objects that could injure you.

AFTER A FLASH FLOOD

- **Avoid contaminated water:** Floodwaters may contain chemicals, sewage, and hidden hazards.
- **Document damage:** Take photos and videos before starting cleanup.
- **Check utilities:** Only restore gas or electricity after professional inspection.
- **Dispose of contaminated items:** Discard food, bottled water, and medicine exposed to floodwater.
- **Protect your health:** Wear gloves, boots, and masks during cleanup to avoid mold and contaminants.