

Flooding

Floods can strike unexpectedly, wreaking havoc on communities and homes. Whether you live in a flood-prone area or simply want to be prepared, understanding flood safety is essential.



As with most things in life, planning is essential to staying safe. Here are some important things to consider when making your flood safety plan.

- Purchase flood insurance. Most plans do not cover flooding. Talk to your agent about adding this.
- Create a list of your property. This can be as simple as taking pictures and videos of your home or office and its contents. This can be invaluable when dealing with the insurance companies.
- Consider keeping valuable or irreplaceable documents in a safe deposit box.
- Know your evacuation route and create a meeting point for your home or facility. Many states have designated evacuation zones and predetermined evacuation routes. Visit your state and county emergency management websites.
- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) provides a detailed list of recommendations for making your emergency plan.

There are many things to consider during a flood. Here are a few important things to keep in mind.

- Listen to radio and TV outlets, including NOAA Weather Radio, to stay informed about where flooding is expected.
- If you are in a low-lying area, get to higher ground, especially if you are not in a solid structure.
- Obey evacuation orders. If you are told to evacuate, doing so is in your best interest. Lock your home and disconnect the utilities if you have time to do so.
- Do not try to drive across flooded roads. You don't know what's under that muddy water. The road may have collapsed, or there could be debris that will cut your tires. But most importantly, it only takes 12" of water to sweep most cars away. Remember – [Turn around, don't drown](#).

After the flood, there are some dangers to keep in mind.

- Listen to the authorities for instructions and information. If you have been evacuated, do not return until you have been informed that it is safe to do so.
- Boil your drinking water and throw out any food that has come in contact with flood water.
- Food, water, shelter, and clothing are available from the Red Cross.
- When searching a structure, use a flashlight, not a torch or lantern, as there may be flammables.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment in a wet area. Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before returning to service.