

Are You Ready for a Flood?

Floods are among the most common and costly natural disasters—and they can happen anywhere. During Flood Safety Awareness Week this March, arm yourself with these preparedness tips so you'll be ready if flooding occurs in your area.

Know Your Terms

When flooding is predicted for your area, you may hear weather forecasters use these terms:

- Flood/Flash Flood Watch—Flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area
- Flood/Flash Flood Warning—Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area

Have Supplies Ready

You'll be better prepared for any disaster, including a flood, if you have some emergency items on hand and ready to go in case you need to evacuate your home.

Essential items include:

- Water—at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)

You can find a full list of emergency supplies on <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/flood>.

Respond During a Flood

Listen to area radio and television stations and a NOAA Weather Radio for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress or other critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS). Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice. When a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, head for higher ground and stay there.

Critical Safety Tips

- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet