

Before The Flood, “What Shall I Do?”

When a flood watch is issued take the following steps to ensure that you are going to be ready to evacuate should the condition escalate.

- * Learn flood-warning signs and your community alert signals.
- * If you live in a frequently flooded area, stockpile emergency building materials. These include plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber nails, hammer and saw, pry bar, shovels, and sandbags.
- * Have check valves installed in building sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains. As a last resort, use large corks or stoppers to plug showers, tubs, or basins.
- * Fill the gas tank in your car and map out a route to higher ground. Try to avoid routes that cross streams or that have underpasses.
- * Stock your vehicle with supplies. To include, non-perishable food, water, first aid kit, flashlight, blankets, dry clothing for all household members. Don't forget special needs items such as medications, special dietary foods, glasses, cash, battery operated radio and extra batteries.
- * Fill your bathtub(s) and sink(s) with water to be used for drinking, as water and other utilities may fail even if your area isn't in immediate danger.

- * Develop your out-of-state phone contact. After a disaster it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure all family members know the phone number of the contact person.
- * Teach all family members how to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- * Ask you insurance agent about the National Flood Program. Remember, homeowner's policies do not cover flood damage.
- * Turn on your NOAA Weather Radio and listen for weather updates and information.

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