

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 vehicle and map out a route to higher ground. Try to avoid routes that cross streams.
- Stock your vehicle with supplies, include: non-perishable food, water, first aid kit, flashlights, blankets, dry clothing, large trash bags, battery operated radio and extra batteries. Don't forget special needs items such as medications and special dietary foods.
- Fill your bathtub(s) and sink(s) with water to be used for drinking. Water and other utilities may fail even if your area isn't in immediate danger.
- Develop your out-of-area phone contact. After a disaster it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure all family members know the phone number of the out-of-area contact person.
- Teach family members how to turn off gas, electricity and water.
- Ask your insurance agent about the National Flood Program. Remember, homeowner's policies do not cover flood damage.
- Turn on you NOAA Weather Radio and listen for weather updates and information.

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