

FLOODING

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most American communities can experience some kind of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms or winter snow thaws.

Dam failures are potentially the most catastrophic of flooding events. A dam failure is usually the result of structural damage caused by a major event such as an earthquake. When a dam fails, a large amount of water is suddenly let loose downstream, destroying anything in its path.



Before A Flood

- Find out if you live in a flood prone area.
- If you live in a frequently flooded area, stockpile emergency building materials such as plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, nails and sandbags.
- Have your disaster supply kit ready.
- Have check valves installed in building sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains.
- Contact your insurance agent to discuss flood insurance (www.floodsmart.com).

During a Flood

If indoors:

- Turn on battery-powered radio to get the latest emergency information.
- Get your emergency supply kit and move to the second floor or roof of your home.
- Wait for help. Do not attempt to drive on flooded roads.

If caught outdoors:

- Go to higher ground and stay there.
- Do not walk through even slow-moving flood waters as swiftly moving water, even if a foot deep can sweep you off your feet.
- If your car stalls, abandon it and climb to higher ground.

After a Flood:

- Only return home when authorities say it's safe to do so.
 - Avoid water or food that's come in contact with flood waters.
 - Pump out and test well water before using.
 - Enter your home only when flood waters have receded around the building.
 - Operate battery-powered lanterns or flashlights to examine buildings.
 - Look for hazards like leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits.
 - Leave if you smell gas and contact a professional to correct the problem.
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