

Tips for Coping with a Flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware of rivers, streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. If you have time, move essential items to an upper floor.
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- Call a family member or neighbor to help you
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to the power company.
- Keep a list of medications, allergies, special equipment, names and numbers of doctors, pharmacists and family members along with eyeglasses, medication and walking aids. Have them ready to take with you.