

Flood Safety Tips



Prepare for a Flood

- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.
- Know the difference between a flood watch and warning. A flood watch means the conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area. A flood warning means a flood is either happening or will happen shortly.
- Charge all cell phones and other battery-powered devices. Print out emergency contact information in case you lose power.
- Update your phone number and e-mail address with your electric company so you can be served faster in the event of an outage.
- Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted.
- If instructed, turn off your natural gas and electricity at the main switch or valve, but only if you are able to do so safely and without standing in water.

- Pay attention to local weather reports and emergency instructions on the radio, television, and Internet.
- Build or restock your Emergency Outage Kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage.

During a Flood

- Don't walk or drive through flood water. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground.
- Evacuate immediately if directed by authorities. Never drive around barricades; first responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

After a Flood

- If you evacuated, only return home when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Avoid standing water, as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded.

If Your Power Is Out:

- Report your outage immediately to your local electric company. Don't rely on your neighbors to report your outage.
- Please be patient. Every company has a detailed plan for restoring electricity after a power outage. Visit EEI's website, www.eei.org, to learn more about the restoration process.
- After a storm, some customers may not be able to receive power to their homes because of damage. Many local codes require that a licensed electrician or plumber do any repair work or that a city/county inspector check the system before power can be restored. This will delay the restoration of service for individual customers.
- Flooding can damage electrical systems, and inspections by a licensed electrician may be required before a home can receive power. Contact a licensed electrician if electric meter boxes, conduits, or wires were under water, or are bent or broken, or if water rose above electrical outlets. Never touch damaged equipment.

Source: www.Ready.gov, a website operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)