

- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Shortcuts or alternative, non-recommended routes may be blocked or damaged by flood waters
- Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads. Delaying too long may allow all escape routes to become blocked

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER FLOOD

- Seek necessary medical care at nearest hospital or clinic. Contaminated flood waters lead to a greater possibility of infection. Severe injuries will require medical attention
- Help a neighbour who may require special assistance – infants, elderly people, and people with special needs. People who care for people living with disabilities or who have large families may need additional assistance in emergency situations
- Avoid disaster areas. Your presence may hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and put you at further risk from the residual effects of floods, such as contaminated waters, crumbled roads, landslides, mudflows, and other hazards
- Continue to listen to the local radio or television stations and return home only when authorities indicate it is safe to do so. Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede; there may be flood-related hazards within your community, which you could hear about from local broadcasts.
- Stay out of any building if flood waters remain around the building. Flood waters often undermine foundations, causing sinking, floors can crack, or break and buildings can collapse.
- Avoid entering ANY building (home, business or other) before local official say it is safe to do so. Buildings may have hidden damage that makes them unsafe. Gas leaks or electric or waterline damage can create additional problems.
- Report broken utility line to the appropriate authorities. Reporting potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further hazard and injury. Check with your local municipality now about where broken line should be reported

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER I RETURN HOME?

- Throw away food that has come in contact with flood waters. Some canned foods can be salvageable. If the cans are dented or damaged, throw them away. Food contaminated with flood waters can cause severe infections.
- If water is questionable purity, boil or add bleach, and distil drinking water before using. Wells or boreholes inundated by flood waters should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt, call your local public health authority. Ill health effects often occurs when people drink water contaminated with bacteria and germs.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are a health hazard.

National Disaster Management Centre

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**Cooperative Governance
Traditional Affairs**

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



FLOODS

A great flowing or overflowing of water,
especially over land not usually submerged.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF FLOODING IS IMMINENT?

- Listen out for warnings on the radio and TV and phone your local disaster risk management centre or weather office should you require more information.
- Move pets, vehicles, valuables and other items to safety.
- Alert your neighbours, particularly the elderly, females and child-headed house-holds and people with special needs.
- Be ready to turn off electricity and gas (get help if needed). Unplug electrical items and move them to a higher place.
- Co-operate with emergency services and Local authorities - you may be evacuated to a central assembly point.
- Avoid contact with flood water – it may be contaminated with sewage

WHAT IF I AM ON THE ROAD?

- Never attempt to cross the flooded river with or without a vehicle.
- Never drive through the bridge when submerged into water
- Avoid open and partially closed storm water drainage system

HOW DO I SAFEGUARD MYSELF AND MY FAMILY?

- Regardless of how a flood occurs, the rule for being safe is simple: head for higher ground and stay away from flood waters
- If you come upon flood waters, stop, turn around, and go another way
- Climb to higher ground
- Stay away from the flooded areas, even if it seems safe, flood waters may still be rising
- Never try to walk, swim, drive, or play in flood water
- If you are in a vehicle and become surrounded by water, if you can get out safely, do so immediately, so do so immediately and move to higher ground
- Watch out for snakes in areas that were flooded
- Stay away from stream banks in flooded and recently flooded areas
- Never play around high water, storm drains, ditches, riverine, or culverts
- Throw away all food that has come into contact with flood waters – the water might well be contaminated and unsafe
- Develop an evacuation plan
- Discuss floods with your family

WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING A FLOOD?

- Listen continuously to the radio or television for updated emergency information. Local Stations provide you with the best advice for your particular situation
- Everyone in an area should be ready to respond and act quickly. Floods and flash floods can happen so quickly and without warning. Be ready to act immediately
- Be alert to signs of flooding, and if you live in a flood-prone area, be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Follow the instructions and advice of local authorities. Local authorities are the most informed about affected areas. They will best be able to tell you of areas to avoid
- If you live in a flood prone area or think you are at risk, evacuate immediately. Move quickly to higher ground. Save yourself, not your belongings. The most important thing is your safety
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

FLOODS AWARENESS

WHAT ARE FLOODS?

Flood refers to excessive water run-off or the raise in water level in a particular area which is more than what an environment can absorb or carry.

TYPES OF FLOODS DO WE GET?

- a) Riverine flooding
- b) Coastal floods
- c) Urban floods
- d) Flash floods

HOW DO I KNOW FLOOD WILL OCCUR?

- It is normally during rainy season
- There are severe inland thunder storms or storms over the sea.
- Previous rains have saturated the soil and another storm is threatening
- There is excessive rainfall over a short period of time.
- Moderate rainfall occurs from slow moving storms resulting in a lot of rain over the same area
- The ground cannot absorb the amount of water quickly enough
- The water levels in the rivers and dams rising suddenly.
- There might be snow in the mountains which could melt once spring approaches.
- You experience Gail force winds and / or high swells o the coastal areas.
- More and more green areas are developed into urban centres (which decreases the environments absorption capacity)

FLOOD WARNINGS

Warnings of possible floods are usually communicated by your local weather office or disaster risk management centre.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IN ORDER TO REDUCE MY RISK OF FLOODING?

- Be aware you build your house or dwelling – avoid high risk areas such as river beds and flood plains
- Obey the rules and bylaws of your local municipality they are there for a reason.
- Consult with your local councillor and/ or disaster risk management official.
- Become involved as a community risk management volunteer (contact your local risk management centre in this regard – see back of brochure)
- Become a community activist, speak out if you think that the local developments are increasing your risk of flooding
- Develop a community flood risk management plan with the help of your local disaster risk management centre.