


SEVERE WEATHER PREPARATION: FLOODING

Don't underestimate the power of water!

6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.



FLOOD SAFETY TIP: NEVER drive or walk into floodwaters. It is impossible to know how deep the water is just by looking at it. Turn Around Don't Drown!

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

FLOOD/FLASH FLOOD WATCH: Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area
WHAT TO DO: "Be aware!" Be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice

FLOOD/FLASH FLOOD WARNING: Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area
WHAT TO DO: "Take action!" Head for high ground and stay there

DID YOU KNOW?

In many regions, climate change has brought more snowmelt, sea level rise, and more intense heavy rains. Often, these phenomena affect regions that are already susceptible to flooding.

FLOODING:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND HOW TO ACT

BE PREPARED BEFORE A FLOOD

- Make a **family plan** including establishing a safe meeting point, practicing evacuation routes, and making a **pet plan** if you have pets
- Build a disaster supply kit with food and water, first aid kit, and more (www.floodsmart.gov/supplykit)
- Fully charge electronics and back up batteries
- Clear out gutters, downspouts, and drains
- Sign up for **CodeRED** or **AlertBoston**
- Reduce risk of damage by elevating electronics and critical utilities such as wiring, electrical panels, etc.
- Consider buying flood insurance or ensure your policy is up-to-date. Flooding is not covered under most typical home insurance policies. For more information on flood insurance, go to www.floodsmart.gov

WHAT TO DO DURING A FLOOD

- **Evacuate immediately** if told to do so
- If you are outside, **get to high ground and stay there.**
- Don't walk or drive through flooded areas, **"turn around, don't drown."** Currents and depths can be more dangerous than they may appear
- If your building is flooding, go to the highest floor, but **never go into a closed attic**
- Listen to a NOAA weather radio and/or emergency notifications on CodeRED

WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD

- Let your friends and family know you're safe. You can register yourself and check on others at safeandwell.communityos.org, or mark yourself as safe on Facebook
- Only return home once officials have declared the area safe
- Inspect your home for live downed wires, cracked gas pipes, and other hazards
- Keep children and pets away from hazardous areas and floodwaters
- Take pictures of any damage to your home, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes
- Check on neighbors if it is safe to do so
- Do not use a generator inside or touch wet electrical equipment