



Flood Fact Sheet

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Low-lying areas are subject to periodic severe flooding caused by any combination of heavy rains, melting snow, high tides and strong winds. Land adjacent to or near rivers, creeks, sloughs, bays and the ocean are most vulnerable to flooding; however, flooding can occur in any lowland area. Flash floods, overland flooding, flooding due to broken dams and levees may also occur. The most vulnerable time is from November to April, but experience shows that flooding can occur any time of the year.

Terms to know:

- Flood Watch – Flooding is possible. Tune to TV, radio for further information.
- Flash Flood Watch – Flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground.
- Flood Warning – Flooding is occurring. Be prepared to evacuate when advised.
- Flash Flood Warning -flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

Preventive measures for protecting your property:

- Elevate movable property
- Waterproof walls (especially basement concrete)
- Sandbagging may be necessary – plan ahead to have bags on hand ready to fill.
- In addition to homeowner's insurance, consider purchasing flood insurance. Regular homeowner's policies will not cover flooding.
- Have emergency supply kit and materials

Evacuation:

- Secure home. If time permits, bring items to higher ground.
- Have a prepared list of items to secure and take when evacuating.
- Turn off utilities. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or in standing water.
- Do not walk through moving water.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If flood waters rise around your car, abandon the car for higher ground. **One foot of water will float vehicles; two feet will carry vehicles away.
- Floodwaters may be contaminated.

Re entering flood area:

Use caution when entering buildings.

Return home only when it has been indicated to be safe.

Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Dry things out to avoid mildew. Remember, some items are not salvageable – either due to contamination or water damage. Service damaged water and sewage systems as soon as possible.

References

www.redcross.org
www.fema.gov
www.ready.gov
www.ag.ndsu.edu/disaster/homeinformation.html#FloodInformation

