

BE PREPARED....BE SAFE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD



Before A Flood

Know Your Terms

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a flood hazard:

- **Flood Watch:**
Flooding is possible. Tune in to the radio or television for information.
- **Flash Flood Watch:**
Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to the radio or television for information.
- **Flood Warning:**
Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- **Flash Flood Warning:**
A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

To prepare for a flood, you should:

- Investigate flood insurance for your home. Homes that aren't in a flood plain can be at risk for flash floods or damage due to heavy rains. Standard homeowners policies do not cover flood damage caused by rising water. There is a 30-day waiting period from the time you purchase flood insurance to the time it takes effect. Flood insurance, administered through FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), can be purchased through local insurance agents. Residents can call 1-800-427-4219 or go online to www.FloodSmart.gov to estimate flood risks or insurance premiums for their neighborhoods, or contact the nearest insurance agent carrying flood insurance.
- Elevate the air conditioner/heater, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding. Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers (levees, beams, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- If necessary sandbag all entrances to your home.

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

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- 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.

During a Flood

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

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.

If you have to leave your home, remember these 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.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pick-ups.



After a Flood

The following are guidelines for the period following a flood:

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.

Visit Volusia.org/storm for more disaster preparedness information.

