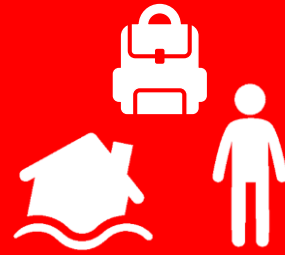




Flood Safety



Floods are one of the most common and costly disasters in Canada. Floods occur when there is heavy or steady rain for several hours or days, which over-saturates the ground.

Tips:

- Create an emergency preparedness plan and build an emergency preparedness kit for your family, which has enough supplies for your family to be self-sustainable in the event of an emergency for 72-hours.
- Listen to local news and weather reports for any potential flood warnings in your area.
- When a flood warning is issued, listen to local authorities for further directions.
- Check on vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours (the elderly, ill, disabled) who may require special assistance.
- Get trained in first aid, visit www.redcross.ca/firstaid to find a course near you.

What to do:

If you are at home:

- Turn off power and gas lines, if necessary;
- Place your valuables on the upper floor of your house;
- Remain on the upper floor and wait for instructions from your local authorities.

If you are away from home:

- Stay away from swollen streams and rivers, since moving waters can sweep you away, even if you are in a car;
- Head to elevated areas;
- Remain in an area where you are visible and safe.

If you are in your car:

- Be careful when driving – puddles can be deeper than you think;
- Go to an elevated area and park your car there;
- Turn off the engine, get out of your vehicle and wait.



Disaster Risk Reduction

After a flood:

- Only return home when officials have declared it safe to do so.
- Before entering your home, look outside for any damage: loose power lines, damaged gas lines, foundation cracks etc.
- Parts of your home may be damaged – approach entrances carefully.
- Stay away from any fallen power lines.
- Discard any food items which may have been in contact with flood waters. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Do not use water that may be contaminated for washing, cleaning, drinking or food preparation.
- Wear protective clothing - such as rubber boots and gloves – during cleanup.
- If you smell natural or propane gas or hear a hissing noise, leave your home immediately and call 911.
- You can also consult our Guide to Flood Recovery here (http://www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/dm_cr_flood_recovery.pdf)

Be Red Cross Ready! www.redcross.ca/ready