

Flood Safety tips

Before Floods

To prepare for a flood, you should:

- Avoid building in flood prone areas unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "Check Valves" in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Contact community officials to find out if they are planning to construct barriers (levees, beams and floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the homes in your area. Seal the walls in your basement with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage

When flood is likely to hit

- Stay available - Keep your mobile phones charged for emergency communication; use SMS
- Be alert - Listen to radio, watch TV, read newspapers for weather updates
- Don't ignore animals - Keep cattle/animals untied to ensure their safety
- Survival is key - Prepare an emergency kit with essential items for safety and survival
- Save your valuables - Keep your documents and valuables in water-proof bags

During Floods

- Don't take risk - Don't enter flood waters. In case you need to, wear suitable footwear
- Watch your step - Stay away from sewerage lines, gutters, drains, culverts, etc.
- Don't get electrocuted - Stay away from electric poles and fallen power lines to avoid electrocution
- Remain healthy - Eat freshly cooked or dry food. Keep your food covered
- Evade illness - Drink boiled/chlorinated water
- Ensure cleanliness - Use disinfectants to keep your surroundings clean

After Floods

- Protect children - Do not allow children to play in or near flood waters. Don't use any damaged electrical goods, get them checked
- Watch your step - Watch out for broken electric poles and wires, sharp objects and debris
- See what you eat - Do not eat food that has been in flood waters
- Mosquitoes can kill - Use mosquito nets to prevent malaria
- Use clean water - Don't use the toilet or tap water if the

If you need to evacuate

- Raise furniture, appliances on beds and Tables
- Put sandbags in the toilet bowl and cover all drain holes to prevent sewage back flow
- Turn off power and gas connection
- Move to a higher ground/ safe shelter
- Take the emergency kit, first aid box and valuables with you
- Do not enter deep, unknown waters; use a stick to check water depth
- Come back home only when officials ask you to do so