

Emergency Preparedness Checklists — Flood

Before a Flood

- Have a weather app installed on my phone.
- Program a weather radio station on my car radio.
- Have a portable weather radio.
- Before driving, check weather app or radio channel for flash flood, heavy rain, and storms alerts.
- Check weather alerts for detours to avoid driving through floods and dangerous areas.
- Keep monitoring weather alert channels for changes in weather hazards, road conditions, or detours.
- Make a habit of checking a phone app or radio channel for local weather before going to sleep at night.
- Never park next to riverbanks or other low areas prone to flooding.

During a Flood

- Never walk through moving water to get to my car or other destination.
- If flood water is crossing, or getting near the road, turn the car around and take a detour.
- Always move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains.
- Assume rain covered roads may have potholes or low areas where the water is too deep to drive through.
- Watch for flooding at highway dips, bridges, and low areas.
- Never drive around road barricades.
- Never drive through moving water.
- Remember:
 - 6 inches of water can cause sliding.
 - 1 foot can float most cars.
 - 2 feet can carry away car and stop a car engine.
- If the car is surrounded by water or the engine stalls, and it's safe for me to get out, immediately climb to high ground.

- If my car is submerging in water,
 - Release the seat belt.
 - Roll down the window or break it out using anything I have in the car.
 - Swim through the open window and upwards.
 - If I can't break my car window,
 - Put my hand securely on the door handle.
 - Wait until the car is almost full of water so it can help me push the door open.
 - Take a deep breath, push the door open, and swim to the surface.
 - Stay on top of my car as long as possible.
 - If my car gets hung up on a tree or something strong, move from the top of the car to the object.
 - If I am swept away by flood waters,
 - Keep my feet pointed in the direction the water is moving.
 - Direct my body over objects in the stream and not under them.

After a Flood

- Remain on high ground until I can find out what routes are safe to travel.
- Move out of windy and wet conditions and remain on high ground if I leave my car.
- Seek medical attention for wounds exposed to potentially contaminated flood waters.
- Avoid areas where flooding may have crumbled roads or caused mud slides, mud flows, and other hazards.
- Throw away any foods exposed to flood waters.
- Sterilize any drinking water potentially exposed to flooding with bleach, water treatment pills, or a travel water filter.
- Check my tires for any damage.