

★ Emergency Preparedness ★

Flood



Don't Be Scared ★ Be Prepared

Weather Reports

There are several ways to check weather reports. You can **install a weather app on your phone, find a weather station on your radio or use your cell phone browser to visit a weather website.** NOAA.gov, weather.gov, and weather.com can give you a 3- to 10-day forecast. It's always a good idea to have a portable, battery-operated radio. With the help of these resources, you can decide if you need to change your travel plans or where you intend to park.

Weather Resources

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration: **NOAA.gov**

National Weather Service: **weather.gov**

KSBW TV–Monterey/Salinas: ksbw.com/weather

Other websites: **weather.com | accuweather.com**

These websites also have weather apps you can install on your phone. Choose one, install it on your phone, and turn on alerts for bad weather.

Keep These in Your Vehicle

Have a **first aid kit** and check it periodically for items that might have expired, such as antibiotic cream or ointment. Think about keeping **extra food and drinking water** in your vehicle. This is especially important in a flood scenario because water lines can burst, and water supplies can become contaminated. You may need to boil tap water for several weeks, and in a car or RV kitchen, that might not be possible. Having extra drinkable water in your vehicle can be a lifesaver.

★ Keep These in Your Vehicle

Invest in one or more **foldable water jugs**. They condense nicely for easy storage when you're not using them, and they're pretty cheap! Fill your water jugs ahead of bad weather and keep them in your vehicle. **Emergency triangles or road flares** can also come in handy.

If you find yourself stuck on the side of the road, you want to be sure other drivers can see you—especially during heavy rain.



Keep These in Your Vehicle

Triangles and flares make you more visible, which can help you avoid accidents and flag down help.

You don't want to worry about replacing birth certificates, passports, or your vehicle title, so keep them in a **waterproof and fireproof bag**. Add this to your **grab-and-go evacuation bag** along with extra clothes, water, and other items you might need in an evacuation situation.

If You Need to Drive

If you need to drive, check for bad weather and any detours you might need to take. **Avoid driving through flooded areas.** Keep listening and watching for changes in weather hazards, road conditions, or detours. If you're caught in a flood situation, there's a lot you can do to stay safe. For one thing, **never walk through moving water** even if you can see your vehicle just across the road. **Being outside during a flash flood is incredibly dangerous and can even be fatal.**

Hidden Dangers in Floodwaters

Floodwaters only 6 inches deep can knock people over or contain **downed power lines** and even poisonous **snakes!**

Whether on foot or in your vehicle, always move to higher ground away from flooded streets, rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. If you see floodwater getting near or crossing the road, turn around and take a detour. Rain-covered roads can have **unseen potholes** or **low areas** where the water is too deep to drive through. **Don't drive around road barricades.** They are there for a reason. **And never drive through moving water.**



Not Just Cars—RVs too!



- » **6 inches** of water can cause your vehicle to slide.
- » **1 foot** can float most cars.
- » **2 feet** can stop your engine and carry your vehicle away—and **RVs are no exception!**

Yes, a flash flood can carry you and your RV away too. If you find yourself in a flash flood, **it might make more sense to evacuate to safety on foot rather than trying to drive away.** Climb to higher ground immediately and seek shelter.

★ Plan Ahead

Of course, you don't want to find yourself in this situation in the first place, so that's why it's so important to get out of the way of serious rains *before* they become flash floods.

If you're going to evacuate before a storm, leave early, and make sure you are not heading into the storm. Take cover before the storm arrives.

Don't be scared. Be prepared.



Your Vehicle Is Stuck in Deep Water

If your vehicle is stuck in deep water, **water is coming into your vehicle, and it's about to be covered with you in it**, release your seat belt, roll down or break out the window, and get on top of your vehicle. **If you can't break your window**, put your hand securely on the door handle and wait until the vehicle is almost full of water so it can help you push the door open. Take a deep breath, push the door open, and swim to the surface.

★ Once You're Out of Your Vehicle

Stay on top of your vehicle as long as possible. If your vehicle is floating away and gets caught by a tree or other strong object, move from your vehicle to the object. **If you're swept away,** keep your feet pointed in the direction the water is moving. Direct your body over objects and not under them.

Stay calm and stay aware!



★ RV Preparation Before a Storm

For RV owners, check your vehicle and parking site for safety before a storm. **Check nearby trees for branches that might break in high winds.** Falling branches can cause severe

damage—to you, your RV, or any vehicle.

If you notice weak branches, ask the person responsible to trim them or consider finding a new place to park.



RV Preparation Before a Storm

With a storm coming, you will want to **check your site** for chairs, tables, toys, BBQs, and other small objects that can become projectiles in high winds. Bring them inside, tie them down, or secure them in some way. Bring your **animals** inside during any bad weather and get your emergency preparedness kit out.

Make sure your **outside storage doors** are closed and locked. Retract your **awning** and fasten it securely. Close and latch your **windows**. Whatever type of vehicle you're in, keep your windows closed.

★ Safety in Your RV During a Storm

RVs can be blown over in high winds. They're not the safest place to be. Stay in a hallway **away from windows**, and stay **away from cabinets** that can fly open, turning their contents into projectiles. If you see lightning or hear thunder, stay inside and remain inside for 30 minutes after you hear the last thunderclap. **Unplug** TVs, DVDs, computers, coffee pots, etc. Use cell phones and battery-powered devices. **Don't touch plumbing or metal. Don't do anything with running water** (washing dishes or showering).

★ Driving Your RV During a Storm

Your brakes can become wet, which will affect how well they work. This is bad enough with a passenger vehicle, but with an RV, you can quickly find yourself in serious trouble—especially **if you're towing a vehicle**. Your tow dolly or trailer can literally push your RV around from behind, leaving you completely out of control. **If you evacuated your RV** on foot or in a tow vehicle, you might be tempted to return to your beloved RV to see how much damage it suffered. Resist the temptation to return to your RV until the storm is over.

★ Avoid Driving on Wet Roads

If there's water pooled on the road, it's not a good idea to drive long distances. If you must drive your vehicle, proceed with caution ... but in general, avoid driving entirely until the roads are dry, and no more rain is forecasted. It's way better to be safe than sorry. After a flood, remain on high ground until you find out which roads are safe to travel. **Avoid areas where heavy rain or flooding may have crumbled roads or caused landslides and other hazards.**

Landslides and Where You Park

Landslides include mudslides, rockfalls, debris flows, and other downslope land movements. Rain, snowmelt, erosion, flooding, earthquake, volcanic activity, and human activity can cause landslides. **Areas with recent wildfires are especially vulnerable to landslides.** To avoid getting caught in a landslide, familiarize yourself with the land where you park. **Are you near a steep hill or slope?** If you are, consider moving your vehicle to a new location.

Landslides Where You Park

What is the weather forecast? Check your weather resources. If you know bad weather is coming, plan ahead. If it's not safe to move, stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on, **remain alert to any changes in the surrounding land**, and continue to monitor weather information and instructions. **If you're caught in a slide while parked, curl into a tight ball as best you can and protect your head.**

Landslides While Driving

Embankments along roads are particularly prone to landslides, so **remain alert while driving in areas with steep hills or slopes.** Watch for falling rocks, debris flows, cracked and collapsed roads, and other hazards.

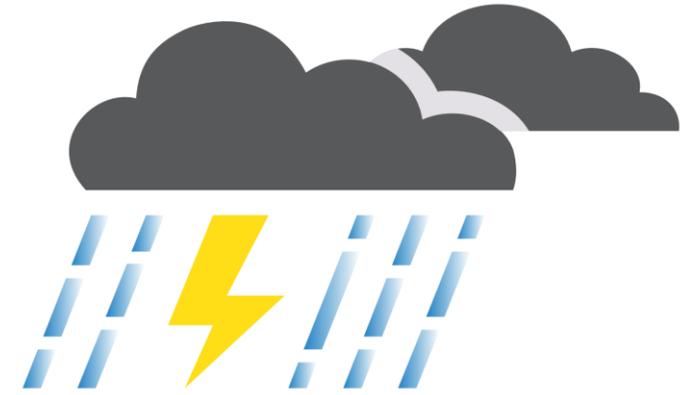
If you're caught in a landslide while driving, keep your wheels straight and slow your vehicle without skidding. **If you're stuck in the middle of landslide debris,** stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on and wait for emergency crews to assist you. Don't try to drive through landslide debris.

If your vehicle is swept off the road by a slide, curl up and protect your head. After a landslide, stay where you are and monitor your weather resources until you find out which roads are safe to travel.

★ Struck by Lightning

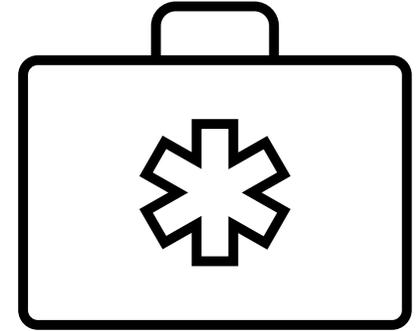
If someone has been struck by lightning, **call 911**. If the person has stopped breathing, start CPR immediately. If you don't know CPR (**cardiopulmonary resuscitation**), **you can learn how to do it.**

The American Heart Association has a YouTube page containing videos that will teach you how to perform CPR. You can also check heart.org to search for CPR classes in your area.



★ If You Were Injured in Floodwaters

If you had to evacuate your vehicle, you were exposed to floodwaters, and you have an injury, **seek medical attention.**



Floodwaters can become contaminated by chemicals, fuels, and raw sewage, which could cause a serious or deadly infection.

Throw away any foods exposed to floodwaters.



How to Sterilize Water

Sterilize any drinking water that may have been exposed to flooding. One way to do that is to boil the water. **If you can't boil water, use bleach in the following way.** Use only **regular, unscented chlorine bleach suitable for disinfection and sanitization.** Check the label to be sure. The label may say the active ingredient contains **6% or 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite.** Use bleach that has been stored at room temperature for less than a year. **Do not use scented or color-safe bleaches or those with added cleaners.** If the water to be treated is cloudy, let it settle and filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.

How to Use Bleach to Sterilize Water

Use a clean dropper, such as an eyedropper, or a teaspoon to add bleach to the water. **The following table shows how much bleach to use** in different quantities of water. Double the amount of bleach if the water is cloudy, colored, or very cold. Stir the mixture and **let it stand for 30 minutes**. The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If it doesn't, repeat the dosage and let it stand for another 15 minutes. If the chlorine taste is too strong, pour the water from one clean container into another and let it stand for a few hours before use.

How Much Bleach to Sterilize Water

Volume of Water	Amount of 6% Bleach to Add	Amount of 8.25% Bleach to Add
1 quart/liter	2 drops	2 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	6 drops
2 gallons	16 drops (1/4 teaspoon)	12 drops (1/8 teaspoon)
4 gallons	1/3 teaspoon	1/4 teaspoon
8 gallons	2/3 teaspoon	1/2 teaspoon

★ The Storm is Over



The storm is over, and the floodwaters are receding. **Is it a good time to get back on the road yet? Is it safe? Remember to use your weather resources to make that decision.** Check your radio, cell phone weather app, or a weather website. It's a good idea to **keep a paper road map or atlas** around in case the power has gone out and you can't charge or access your digital navigation system.

Don't be Scared. Be Prepared.

This is a lot of information to remember. If a strong storm is coming, **re-read this handout for a quick refresher** that will help you brave the storm with confidence.

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