



Flooding: Keeping You and Your Family Safe

In the event of a flood or flash flood watch or warning, you should:

- Keep your automobile gas tank filled.
- Keep a stock of food that requires no cooking and no refrigeration.
- Have a working portable radio, emergency cooking equipment, lights and flashlights.
- Store drinking water in plastic containers.
- Plan to evacuate if necessary and move to a safe area before road access is cut off by floodwater.
- Never drive over a flooded road. You could be trapped or stranded.
- Be prepared to evacuate if necessary.
- Develop safe evacuation routes from your home, your workplace and schools that are on higher ground.
- Post emergency numbers and ensure that your children know how to call 9-1-1.
- Have an emergency contact. (Use a family friend or an out-of state relative)
- Have a plan to protect your pets and keep them safe

Safeguard your possessions

Create a personal waterproof flood file to store information about all of your possessions. Your flood file should contain the following:

- Copies of insurance policies, financial records and other important documents/receipts of purchase.
- A written and visual inventory of major household possessions and valuables. Make an inventory of all marked property and log the inventory as follows: (Item, make, model, description, serial number/other identifying marks, cost and purchased date). Don't forget to include jewelry and artwork.

Prepare your house.

- Check your sump pump and ensure that it is working properly.
- Check your gutters and ensure that it is free of debris and trash.
- Raise electrical sockets and switches at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation.
- Place the furnace, water heater, washer, and dryer on cement blocks at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation.

- Move furniture, valuables, and important documents to a safe place.

Please find attached information for residents that have suffered flood damage to their homes. Here are a few publications/information sites that may help:

- After the Flood (FloodSmart):
http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pdfs/PDT_After_the_Flood_Tips.pdf
- After a Flood (FEMA): http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/fl_after.shtm
- Recovery From and Coping With Flood Damaged Property (FEMA):
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/coping.shtm>
- Rebuilding Resources (FEMA): <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/resources.shtm>
- After the Flood: Precautions When Returning to Your Home (CDC):
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/after.asp>
- What to Do After a Flood (ARC):
<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.53fabf6cc033f17a2b1ecfbf43181aa0/?vgnextoid=a3871c99b5ccb110VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD&currPage=ed081f517fc12210VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD>

Here are some other websites that offer up-to-date information/resources with respect to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery on a local, state, and federal level.

- Maryland Emergency Management Agency: <http://www.mema.state.md.us/MEMA2/index.html>
- Maryland Insurance Administration: <http://www.mdinsurance.state.md.us/sa/jsp/Mia.jsp>
- Maryland Insurance Administration, Bulletin on Percentage Deductibles on Insurance Policies in Local Jurisdictions in Hurricane Warning zones:
<http://www.mdinsurance.state.md.us/sa/docs/documents/insurer/bulletins/bulletin11-25.pdf>
- Problem Solver Maryland: <http://maryland.gov/pages/problemsolver.aspx>
- Ready.gov: <http://www.ready.gov>
- FEMA Recover & Rebuild: <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/index.shtm>
- American Red Cross – Get Assistance:
<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.d8aaecf214c576bf971e4cfe43181aa0/?vgnextoid=6cde1a53f1c37110VgnVCM1000003481a10aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default>