



# Rain & Flood Safety Tips

## WHEN OUTSIDE

- Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding. If you are caught outdoors during a heavy rain and flood climb to high ground and stay there.
- Stay back from rushing water, as during flash floods water can increase suddenly.
- If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, STOP! Turn around and go another way.
- Don't walk through flooded areas. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Children should NEVER play around high water, storm drains, viaducts, or arroyos.
- Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. Electrocution is another major source of deaths in floods. Electric current passes easily through water.



## IN YOUR HOME

- If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic, and if necessary, the roof.
  - Take dry or waterproof clothing if possible, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Then, wait for help.
  - If you are stranded and surrounded by water, do not swim to safety; wait for rescuers to come to you.
- Look out for animals - especially snakes. With homes along hillsides, animals lose their homes in floods, too. They may seek shelter in your home.



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# Rain & Flood Safety Tips...continued

## IN YOUR HOME

- If power is out, use flashlights and battery lanterns (Do not use flammable or gas lanterns).
- Look for electrical system damage--If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If your power is off, keep it off, until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Check for gas leaks--If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional, so call the gas company).
- Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- Floodwaters pick up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms and factories. If your home has been flooded, protect your family's health by cleaning up your house right away. Throw out foods and medicines that may have met floodwater.
- Until local authorities proclaim your water supply to be safe, boil water for drinking and food preparation vigorously for five minutes before using.
- Check for sewage and water line damage--If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid the water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

## OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities.
- Before entering a building, inspect foundations for cracks or other damage. Do not go in if there is any chance of the building collapsing.
- Be careful walking around. After a flood, steps and floors are often slippery with mud and covered with debris, including nails and broken glass.
- If your home, apartment or business has suffered damage, call the insurance company or agent who handles your flood insurance policy right away to file a claim.

## PREPAREDNESS

- Take steps to reduce your risk of future floods.
- Follow local building codes and ordinances when rebuilding.
- Use flood-resistant materials and techniques to protect yourself and your property from future flood damage.
- Check with your local fire department for additional preparedness tips.

-Information was obtained from [www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/floodf.shtm#before-](http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/floodf.shtm#before-)