

American Red Cross Flood Safety Tips



Be Prepared in Time of Disaster

Flood Preparedness

- Know your area's flood risk—if unsure, call your local Red Cross chapter.
- If you're in a flood area, investigate the feasibility of flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and valuables in a safe place, such as a safe-deposit box.
- Prepare a family evacuation plan.
- Prepare instructions on how to turn off utilities.

- Keep a portable radio, a flashlight, emergency supplies, and a first aid kit on hand.

After a flood warning is issued—

- Move furniture and valuables to higher ground.
- Fill car with gasoline.
- Evacuate if you are told to do so.
- Turn off utilities.
- Listen to local radio or TV stations for vital information.

A flash flood warning means you may only have seconds to escape. You may not get a warning.

- Leave low-lying areas immediately.
- If you are in a desert or canyon area, get out of your car and seek higher ground immediately.
- Stay away from storm drains and irrigation ditches.

Flood Waters—the Greatest Danger

- Stay away from ditches, culverts, and drains.
- Do not drive around police barricades; they are there for your protection.
- Flood waters covering roads or bridges have more force than you think.
- Walking or driving through flood waters is the most dangerous thing you can do.



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