

Before and **During** a Flood: What you should do.

Before:

Besides insuring your property, there are other things you can do before a flood to minimize potential loss to your home and ensure your family's safety.

- Take photos or videos of your important possessions. If your home is damaged, these documents will help you file a full flood insurance claim.
- Store important documents and irreplaceable personal objects (such as photographs) where they won't get damaged.
- Post emergency telephone numbers in an easy-access location.
- Plan a flood evacuation route with your family.
- Have a licensed electrician raise electric components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers and wiring) at least 12" above your home's projected flood elevation.
- For drains, toilets, and other sewer connections, install backflow valves or plugs to prevent floodwaters from entering.
- Arrange for the safe evacuation of pets. Visit your local AAA branch or aaa.com for a list of pet-friendly hotels in your area.

During:

When the floodwaters are rising, there's nothing you can do to stop them. But there are things you can do to make sure your family stays safe until the water levels drop again.

- If local authorities instruct you to do so, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve.
- Floodwaters may carry raw sewage, chemical waste and other disease-spreading substances. If you've come in contact with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.
- Avoid walking through floodwaters. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you over.
- Don't drive through a flooded area. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. A car can be carried away by just two feet of flood water.
- Electric current passes easily through water, so stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FEMA

**Plan a flood
evacuation route
with your family.**

After a Flood: What you should do.

After:

Your community has been flooded, and your property has suffered flood damage. Stay calm and stay safe in the days ahead by following these instructions:

- If your home is damaged, call your AAA flood insurance agent to file a claim. If you can't stay in your home, make sure to say where you can be reached.
- To make filing your claim easier, take photos of any water in the house and save damaged personal property. If necessary, place these items outside the home. An insurance adjuster will need to see what's been damaged to process your claim.
- Check for structural damage before re-entering your home. Don't go in if there is a chance of the building collapsing.
- Upon re-entering your property, do not use matches, cigarette lighters or other open flames since gas may be trapped inside.
- Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Until local authorities declare your water supply safe, boil water for drinking and food preparation.

