

DANGER! RISING WATER: BE READY FOR FLOODS

Floods, big or small, can have serious effects on your home and your family. You can take steps to reduce the harm caused by flooding. Learn how to prepare for a flood, stay safe during a flood and protect your health when you return home after a flood.¹

BEFORE A FLOOD



BE PREPARED.¹

- ▶ **A flash flood is water moving very fast into low areas.**
Know if flash floods are common in your area.



- ▶ **Make a plan.**
Visit www.cdc.gov/phpr/prepareyourhealth/PlanAhead or www.ready.gov/floods for ideas.



- ▶ **Stay informed.**
Listen to a weather radio (www.weather.gov/nwr&ln_desc=NOAA+Weather+Radio), keep your smart phone handy and charged and tune in to local weather on your TV, radio or computer.



- ▶ **If you must leave:**
Shut off power to the house and turn off the main gas line. Buy a fire extinguisher if you don't already have one. Make sure your family knows where it is and how to use it.

DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD²



WATCH AROUND YOU.

- ▶ **Turn around, don't drown.** Don't drive into flooded areas; even shallow water can be dangerous.
- ▶ **Stay out of floodwater –** it can contain waste, chemicals and debris.
- ▶ **If you do get in floodwater,** make sure to wash your hands and skin that came in contact with the water.
- ▶ **Watch out for sharp objects!**
Wood, glass or metal can break or tear. Those pieces might be floating in water or in your house.
- ▶ **Protect yourself from insect or animal bites.**
Buy insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or PMD.^{3,4} Steer clear of snakes or other reptiles in the water.



BE PREPARED. KNOW WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO BEFORE AND AFTER FLOODING.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods or www.ready.gov/floods.