

The following common sense guidelines can help you from the dangers of flooding:

- Follow the flood warning information and instructions.
- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by local officials.
- Plan escape routes to higher ground.
- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than any where else. Do not drive around barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. A car can float in as little as two feet of water.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, switch off all circuit breakers, or remove all fuses and store in a safe, dry area, and turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocutation is the 2nd leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. Close the main valve, which is generally located on the gas piping just prior to its entry into the gas meter. If you smell gas, report it to your gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns, or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.
- Water shut off: close the main valve, usually located on an exterior wall or on the floor of the lowest level of your home where the water supply enters.
- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry unimaginable items that have dislodged themselves. Culverts may suck smaller people into them rendering them helpless.
- Look out for animals. especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.
- Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud may be very slippery.
- Do not use gas engines. such as generators. or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.
- If caught in the house. move to the second floor-move valuable papers: store fresh water; board up windows; and turn off utilities, only if time permits.
- Drinking water storage: store water in a clean and covered bath tub or in the hot water tank. If the hot water tank valves are turned off and no heat is supplied to the tank, flood water cannot enter.