

# FLOOD

## TERMS TO KNOW

**Flood or Flash Flood Watch:** Indicates that flooding or flash flooding will occur within a few hours of heavy rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or water is being released from an ice jam.

**Flood or Flash Flood Warning:** Inundation of a normally dry area near a stream or other watercourse, or unusually severe ponding of water has been reported or is imminent.

## BE PREPARED!

- Learn the safest route from your home or business to high, safe ground should you have to leave in a hurry.
- Find out how many feet your property is above and below possible flood levels. When predicted flood levels are broadcast, you can determine if you may be flooded.
- Have emergency waterproofing supplies on hand, including sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber.
- Move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of the house. Disconnect electrical appliances that cannot be moved. Do not touch them if you are wet or standing in water.
- If you are told to shut off water, gas, or electrical services before leaving your home, do so.
- Secure your home: lock all doors and windows.
- Leave early to avoid being marooned on flooded roads. Follow recommended routes. Do not sightsee. As you travel, monitor local radio broadcasts for the latest information.
- Watch for washed-out roads, earthslides, broken water or sewer mains, loose or downed electrical wires, and falling or fallen objects.
- Watch for areas where rivers or streams may suddenly rise and flood, such as highway dips, bridges, and low areas.
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. Turn around and go another way. **Water moving at two miles per hour can sweep cars off a road or bridge.**
- If you are in your car and water begins to rise rapidly around you, abandon the vehicle immediately.

