

READY TOGETHER FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE LIBRARY

RTF-107

Flood Preparedness Guide

A Practical Guide to Protecting Your Family Before, During, and After a
Flood

Building Resilient Communities Together

Floods Can Happen Anywhere

Flooding is one of the most common and costly natural disasters. It can occur suddenly after heavy rainfall, rapidly rising rivers, dam failures, or coastal storms.

Floodwaters can rise quickly, making roads unsafe and leaving little time to react.

Preparing before a flood helps protect your family, your home, and your future.

Why Flood Preparedness Matters

Preparing for floods helps your family:

- Stay safe during rising waters.
- Evacuate quickly when necessary.
- Protect important documents and belongings.
- Reduce property damage where possible.
- Recover more quickly after the flood.

Preparation begins long before floodwaters arrive.

Before a Flood

Take these important steps:

- ☐ Know whether your home is in a flood-prone area.
- ☐ Sign up for local emergency alerts.
- ☐ Prepare your family emergency plan.
- ☐ Build and maintain an emergency kit.
- ☐ Store important documents in waterproof containers.
- ☐ Identify evacuation routes to higher ground.
- ☐ Keep emergency contact information updated.

Preparedness today helps protect tomorrow.

Protect Your Home

Reduce potential flood damage by:

- ☐ Keeping gutters and drains clear.
- ☐ Moving valuable items to higher shelves or upper floors.
- ☐ Learning how to safely turn off electricity, gas, and water if instructed.
- ☐ Keeping sandbags or other flood barriers available if flooding is common in your area.
- ☐ Maintaining adequate flood insurance if appropriate for your location.

Small preparations can make a significant difference.

During a Flood

If flooding is expected:

- ☐ Monitor official weather updates.
- ☐ Be prepared to evacuate immediately if instructed.
- ☐ Move to higher ground if necessary.
- ☐ Avoid flooded roads and bridges.
- ☐ Keep children away from floodwaters.
- ☐ Stay informed through official emergency sources.

Never underestimate the power of moving water.

Flood Safety

Remember:

Turn Around, Don't Drown®

If you encounter floodwater while driving or walking:

- ☐ Never drive through flooded roads.
- ☐ Never walk through moving floodwater.
- ☐ Avoid downed power lines.
- ☐ Stay away from fast-moving water.

Even shallow floodwater can be dangerous.

If You Must Evacuate

Before leaving:

- ☐ Take your emergency kit.
- ☐ Bring medications.
- ☐ Take important documents.
- ☐ Secure your home if time permits.
- ☐ Bring pets with you.
- ☐ Follow official evacuation routes.

Leave early if authorities recommend evacuation.

After a Flood

Return home only after local officials declare it safe.

When you return:

- ☐ Check for structural damage.
- ☐ Watch for electrical hazards.
- ☐ Avoid standing water that may be contaminated.
- ☐ Wear protective gloves and boots during cleanup.
- ☐ Discard food or medicine that has come into contact with floodwater.
- ☐ Photograph damage before beginning major cleanup.

Safety should always come first.

Protecting Children

Help children by:

- ☐ Explaining flood safety in simple language.
- ☐ Practicing evacuation plans together.
- ☐ Teaching them never to play in floodwater.
- ☐ Reassuring them throughout the recovery process.

Prepared children are more confident during emergencies.

Preparing for Pets

Include your pets in your flood plan.

Prepare:

- ☐ Pet food.
- ☐ Water.
- ☐ Medications.
- ☐ Leash or carrier.
- ☐ Vaccination records.
- ☐ Comfort items.

Never leave pets behind during an evacuation.

Ready Together Action

Complete these three steps this week:

- ☐ Identify your nearest safe location on higher ground.
- ☐ Waterproof your important family documents.
- ☐ Review your evacuation routes with your family.

Every step you take today strengthens your family's preparedness.

Review Your Flood Plan

Review your flood preparedness:

- ☐ Before every rainy season.
- ☐ After moving to a new home.
- ☐ After changes in household members.
- ☐ Every six months.

Preparedness is an ongoing commitment.

About Ready Together Foundation

Ready Together Foundation is dedicated to building resilient communities through emergency preparedness, emergency relief and response, youth engagement, and outreach to vulnerable populations.

Our work focuses on:

- Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Relief & Response
- Youth Preparedness & Leadership
- Vulnerable Population Outreach

Together, we are building stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

Ready Together Foundation

Building Resilient Communities Together

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Preparedness is a journey, not a one-time event. Every small step you take today helps protect the people you care about tomorrow.