

## **Floods Including Flash Floods**

Flooding is the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities, including ours can experience some degree of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms or winter snow thaws.

Most floods develop slowly over a period of days. Flash floods, however, are like walls of water that develop in a matter of minutes. Flash floods in our area are generally caused by intense storms, but can be caused by dam failures. The likelihood of a flash flood occurring is high.

Flood Watch - Flooding is possible, be prepared to evacuate.

### I. During a Flood Watch -

- a. Listen to a radio or TV for the latest storm information.
- b. Fill sinks and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.
- c. Bring outdoor belongings indoors.
- d. Move valuable possessions to the upper floors or to safe ground if time permits.
- e. If instructed to do so by local authorities, turn off all utilities at the main switch and close the main gas valve.
- f. Be prepared to evacuate.

Flood Warning - Flooding is already occurring or will occur soon. Take precautions at once. If advised evacuate immediately.

### II. During a Flood -

If Indoors:

- a. Turn on battery operated radio or television to get the latest emergency information.
- b. If told by authorities to leave, do so immediately.

If Outdoors:

- a. Climb to high ground and stay there.
- b. Avoid walking through any flood waters. If it is moving swiftly, even water 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet.

In a Car:

- a. If you come to a flooded area, turn around and go another way.
- b. If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

During an Evacuation -

- a. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- b. Evacuation is much simpler and safer before flood waters become too deep for ordinary vehicles to drive through.
- c. Listen to a battery operated radio or television for evacuation instructions.
- d. Follow recommended evacuation routes - shortcuts may be blocked.
- e. Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads.

III. After the Flood –

- a. Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. Listen to a radio or television and don't return until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- b. Remember to help those that may require special assistance.
- c. Stay out of buildings if flood waters remain around the building.
- d. When entering buildings, use extreme caution.
- e. Wear sturdy shoes and use battery powered lanterns/flashlights in buildings.