

## Flooding / Heavy Rainfall

If extreme levels of precipitation occur or, the warm weather begins to approach, it is important that we stay aware of the dangers associated with rising water tables. Flooding (in various forms) can potentially interrupt many of our daily activities relating to your home, roadways, and watercourses within the community.

Though all levels of government are working to reduce the impact of floods, individuals also play an important role. Everyone has a responsibility to protect their homes and their families. If a flood is forecast – BE PREPARED

- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground-level doors.
  - Install the drainage for downspouts a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure that water moves away from the building
  - Consider installing a sump pump and zero reverse flow valves in basement floor drains
  - Do not store your important documents in the basement. Keep them at a higher level.
  - Turn off basement furnaces and the outside gas valve
  - Take special precautions to safeguard electrical, natural gas or propane heating equipment. If there is enough time, consult your electricity or fuel supplier for instructions on how to proceed
  - Shut off the electricity only if flooding has not yet begun and the area around the fuse box is completely dry. Stand to the side of the breaker panel and look away from the panel when switching the power off. Have a flashlight with you. Do NOT attempt to shut off electricity if any water is present. Water and live electrical wires can be lethal. Leave your home immediately and do not return until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
  - Move furniture, electrical appliances and other belongings to floors above ground level
  - Remove toxic substances such as pesticides and insecticides from the flood area to prevent pollution
  - Remove toilet bowls and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections with a stopper (plastic bags work well, hold the stopper down with a sandbag or heavy object)
  - Disconnect eaves troughs if they are connected to the house sewer
  - In some cases, homes may be protected externally with sandbags or polyethylene barriers. Follow instructions from local emergency officials.
  - Prepare a Home Emergency Kit ahead of time ( Refer to “Emergency Kit” Tip Page )
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