

FLOOD WATCH '11

PERSONAL SAFETY is #1!

For State Employees

- Plan for a disruption of your normal routine. Create plans for alternate routes of travel to arrive at your destination. **DO NOT TRAVEL ON ROADS THAT ARE UNSAFE/FLOODED.**
- Scan documents and save virtual copies of them both on your computer and in an account that is not located within your home. This will allow you to produce, should you lose your originals, an exact copy of the lost document. Some documents are considered invalid when they are presented as copies.
- An important step to consider is keeping all of your important documents and photographs on the top floor of your home, and stored in zip-locked, waterproof bags.
- If you are advised by Public Safety Officials to evacuate your home, follow their instructions. It is better to get your family and most treasured possessions to safe ground, rather than risk being stranded. Just in case there is not enough time to get to safe ground, keep supplies of bottled water and canned food as high up in your home as possible.
- Be sure to have all contact information available for family members and your work contacts in your home and also your vehicle in case you need to leave quickly.
- Stay in contact with your work office.
- Employees may want to have in place:
 1. ***An emergency plan that every household member knows.*** The plan should include information on how to shut off electrical power and natural gas sources, safe meeting places out of the flood-risk area, an out-of-province contact, plans for pets and livestock. Remember to take any vital medications!
 2. ***An emergency supply kit*** containing food, water, necessary medications, flashlights and batteries, personal toiletries, identification for each family member, some cash and any important family documents. Be prepared to be on your own for at least 72 hours, possibly longer.
 3. ***A battery-powered or wind-up radio*** that allows you to access weather warnings and disaster instructions from local radio stations.
 4. ***A plan for protecting your home*** and the tools and items you may need to do so (wrenches for shutting off valves, plastic sheeting or sandbags).
 5. ***A full gas tank in your vehicle.***

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Bring those items essential to your immediate health and welfare:
 - Medications/Prescriptions
 - Baby Supplies
 - Family Emergency Contacts
 - Work Emergency Contacts
 - Insurance Papers
 - Income Tax Information
 - Other important documents

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.

About 60 percent of all flood deaths result from people trying to cross flooded roads in vehicles when the moving water sweeps them away.