

comprehensive, printable Family Emergency Plan, visit
<http://ready.adcouncil.org/beprepared/fep/index.jsp>.

Prepare to Evacuate

- Make a record of your personal property. Take photos or a video of the interior and exterior of your home.
- Store important documents such as insurance policies, deeds, property records, and other important papers in a safe place, such as a safety deposit box away from your home. Make copies of important documents for your flood kit (see above).
- Be informed! Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available. In the event of an evacuation, pay attention to the approved evacuation routes. Monitor local road conditions and obey closure signs. NEVER drive through flooded areas!
- Be ready to relocate animals and livestock. Ensure there is food and water available.
- Store valuables and electronics higher on the ground floor, on the second story, or in your attic.
- Keep hazardous chemicals out of floodwaters.
- Learn how to use sandbags and locate where you can buy or get them ahead of time.
- Ensure that your sub pump is in working condition. Consider purchasing a backup pump in the event of equipment failure.
- Move vehicles and equipment to higher ground
- Keep storm drains free of leaves and debris.

Buy Flood Insurance Now

If you live in a flood-prone area, consider purchasing flood insurance to reduce your risk of flood loss. Standard insurance policies often do not cover flood damage. Remember, it generally takes 30 days for the flood policy to take effect. Contact your insurance agent NOW to review your existing coverage.

After a Flood

What do you do after your home or business has been flooded? Follow these tips from the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- Wait for the water to go down before entering your home.
- Report downed power lines and gas leaks immediately.
- Turn off the electricity at the main breaker or fuse box. If you have to step in water to get to your electric box, call an electrician.
- Turn off the gas if you have gas appliances. Then clean the mud out of the pilot and burners.
- Check for structural damage.
- Check the ceiling for signs of sagging. Poke a hole at the edge of the sag to drain water.
- Find and protect the "irreplaceable" valuables such as money, jewelry, insurance papers, photographs and family heirlooms. Then freeze them in plastic bags to protect them from mildew and further damage.
- Circulate air through your home by opening windows.
- Patch holes in the roof, walls or windows with boards, tarps or plastic sheeting

□ **Seeking Disaster Assistance**

Throughout the recovery period, it is important to monitor local radio or television reports and other media sources for information about where to get emergency housing, food, first aid, clothing, and financial assistance. Direct assistance to individuals and families may come from any number of organizations, including:

- American Red Cross: 800-REDCROSS (800-733-2767) www.redcross.org.
- Salvation Army www.salvationarmyusa.org.
- Other volunteer organizations.

These organizations provide food, shelter, supplies and assist in clean-up efforts.

In the most severe disasters, the federal government is also called in to help individuals and families with temporary housing, counseling (for post-disaster trauma), low-interest loans and grants, and other assistance. The federal government also has programs that help small businesses and farmers.

Most federal assistance becomes available when the President of the United States declares a “Major Disaster” for the affected area at the request of a state governor. FEMA will provide information through the media and community outreach about federal assistance and how to apply. FEMA contact information: 800-621-FEMA (3362) or online at www.fema.gov.