



Evacuating During a Flood

Floods can strike quickly and without warning. In the case of flooding, it's important to know where to go, how to get there and what to take before a flood occurs.

If flooding threatens your area, listen to the radio or television for weather reports and evacuation notices, and follow the directions of local authorities.

The Five P's of Immediate Evacuation

People and **Pets** – And other livestock too

Papers – Important documents

Prescriptions – Medications, eyeglasses and hearing aids

Pictures – Irreplaceable memories

Personal Computer – Information on hard drives and disks

Prepare for Flooding

- Elevate the furnace, water heater and electric panel if you live in a high-risk area.
- Install "check valves" to prevent floodwaters from backing up into the drains of your home.
- If feasible, construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building, and waterproof basement walls.
- Property insurance often does not cover flood damage. Talk to your provider about your policy and consider [flood insurance](#) coverage.
- [Build a kit](#) of emergency supplies and a portable kit in case of evacuation.

Plan to Evacuate

- Know where to go and how to get there if an evacuation is advised.
- Confirm family meeting places within and outside the neighborhood.
- Identify places you could go - a friend's home in another town, a motel or public shelter - in an emergency.
- If you have a car, keep a half tank of gas in it at all times.
- Become familiar with alternate routes and means of transportation that lead out of your area.
- Take your emergency supply kit.
- Lock the door behind you.
- Tune a battery-powered radio to a local emergency broadcast station; follow all emergency instructions.
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan [how you will care for your pets in an emergency](#).

Evacuate

- Call or email the [out-of-state contact](#) in your family communication plan to tell them where you are going.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Do not walk through moving water. Look for areas where the water is not moving. What might seem like a small amount of moving water can easily knock you down.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If your vehicle becomes surrounded by rising water, get out quickly and move to higher ground.
- Stay away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of electrocution.

(Source: [Ready](#))