EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT

Flood

What you can do during a flood

- Move away from low spots and get up to higher ground.

- Do not walk in flooded areas. You don’t know how fast the water is flowing. The water may be deeper than it looks. There may be things in the water that you can’t see, such as snakes, or bacteria that could make you sick.

- Do not try to drive through flooded roadways. It will not always be easy to see how deep the water is (the roads may be washed out under flood waters).

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars. This can cause the car to stall or lose control.

- Do not drive around a barricade. They are there for your protection. Turn around and go a different way.

The dangers of flooding

- Do not try to walk across flowing streams or through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall!

- A foot of water can make your car float.

- Two feet of water is all it takes to sweep away cars, SUVs, and pick-up trucks.

What you can do after a flood

- Do not walk or drive through moving water. Stay away from flooded areas. Water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage.

- Be careful driving around areas where the water has gone down. The roads may be weakened. They could collapse under the weight of a car.

- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by water. It may be unstable. Building foundations can be damaged by water from the flood.

- Go home only when authorities say it is safe.

- Before you go inside your home, look for any damage. Check outside for loose power lines. Check the gas lines for any damage. Make sure the foundation has no cracks. If you think there might be damage to water, gas, electric, or sewer lines, contact the police.

- Watch the news to learn when the water is safe to drink.

- Mold can develop in 24 to 48 hours. Remove wet things from your home as soon as you can. This includes carpet, furniture, bedding, wood floors, and drywall.

- Clean and bleach whatever you don’t throw away. Mud left after a flood can include raw sewage and chemicals.

- Make a detailed list of all the items you find damaged or lost.

- Take pictures of damages and water in the house.

- File your flood insurance claim. Be sure to provide the following information:
  - The name of your insurance company
  - Your policy number
  - Contact information