



All You Need To Know About Floods



FLOODS



Department of Disaster Management
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FLOODS

Property Protection

Flood Mitigation Measures

- Elevate or relocate air-condition units, hot water heaters, or electrical panels.
- Provide openings in foundation walls that allow flood waters in and out, thus avoiding collapse.
- Build and install flood shields for doors and other openings (after evaluating whether the building can handle the forces) to prevent flood waters' entering.
- For drains, toilets, and other sewer connections, install backflow valves or plugs to prevent flood waters from entering your home.
- Buy and install pump with back up power.

Before a Flood

Minimize potential loss to your home and ensure your family's safety.

- Take photos or videos of all of your important possessions.
- Store important documents and irreplaceable personal objects (such as photographs) where they won't get damaged.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.
- In highly flood-prone areas, keep materials on hand like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, garbage bags, lumber, shovels, work boots, and gloves.
- If your washer and dryer are in the basement, elevate them on masonry or pressure-treated lumber at least 12" above the projected flood elevation.
- Place the air-condition units and water heater on masonry blocks or concrete at least 12" above the projected flood elevation.
- Elevate and secure gas tanks outside in a shaded area.

During a Flood

What to do During a Flood

- Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.
- If told to evacuate your home, do so immediately.
- If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, or if necessary, the roof.
- Floodwaters may carry raw sewage, chemical waste and other disease-spreading substances. If you come in contact with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.
- Avoid walking through floodwaters. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Electric current passes easily through water, so stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.

After a Flood

What to do After a Flood

- Check for structural damage before re-entering your home.
- Upon re-entering your property, do not use matches, cigarette lighters or other open flames since gas may be trapped inside. If you smell gas or hear hissing, open a window, leave quickly, and call the fire station from a neighbor's home.
- Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Check for sewage and water line damage.
- Throw away any food -- including canned goods -- that has come in contact with floodwaters.
- Until local authorities declare your water supply to be safe, boil water for drinking and food preparation.

The Nature of a Flood

A flood is defined as a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land from: an overflow of inland or tidal waters, an unusual rapid accumulation of runoff surface waters from any source, or mudflow.

Hurricanes also have the ability to produce flood conditions.

Inland flooding can be a major threat to low lying and coastal communities such as Apple Bay, Carrot Bay, Cane Garden Bay, Brewers Bay, Sea Cows Bay, parts of East End, Long Bay, and Road Town.

Awareness Information

KNOW THE EMERGENCY TERMS:

Flood Watch— is issued when there is a threat of flood conditions; at this time secure all valuables and start making evacuation plans

Flood Warning—is issued when flood conditions are already occurring or will occur; monitor the radio station for more emergency information and evacuate if necessary.

Flash Flood Watch— is issued when flash flooding is possible; be alert to the signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate if necessary.

Flash Flood Warning— A flood is occurring or is impending; Seek higher ground on foot immediately.



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