



Johnson County Emergency Management

511 South Capitol Street, Iowa City, IA. 52240

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Flood Preparations to think about

Before a Flood

To prepare for a flood, you should:

- Determine if your home or building site are at risk of flooding by checking the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) at your local city or county office.
- If you build in a floodplain, be sure to follow all local code requirements to reduce your risk and to avoid adversely impacting your neighbors.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers (levees, beams, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.
- Purchase Flood Insurance. See your agent about the National Flood Insurance Program!
- Consider having an appropriate quantity of empty sandbags and ties on hand along with plastic sheeting or large tarps.
- Know where you can obtain sand for sandbags and how you can get it brought to your site in a short time frame.
- Have gloves, boots or waders and shovels on hand.
- Be current on your Tetanus shot and immunizations.
- Secure vital records in a safe location and make a video inventory of your property and contents.

Dave C Wilson – Coordinator



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During a Flood

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

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

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

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. 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.

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.

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Driving Flood Facts

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- 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.
- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU DRIVE AROUND A ROAD CLOSED SIGN!

Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles

After a Flood

The following are guidelines for the period following a flood:

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.

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- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.

SANDBAGS

- Most Local Public Works or Streets Departments have been provided empty sandbags which they will provide free to residents who call and come to the local public works or streets facilities garage to pick them up. Please call ahead.
- They will NOT DELIVER THEM and they will not and do not store them filled with sand.
- Citizens will need to make arrangement to pickup the bags after the call ahead and indicate how many they need and they will need to arrange for sand to be delivered to their site to fill the bags or will need to go to a quarry and fill them first own their own.
- Public Works, Secondary Roads and the Streets Departments will not deliver bags and do not store them filled.
- The number for Secondary Roads or your local public works or streets department are available in your local phone book or by contacting city hall in your community.

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