

HOW TO **STAY SAFE** WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS



PREPARE NOW

- ✓ **Know your area's flood risk.** Check if you are in a flood zone using FEMA's Flood Map online at [SJReady.org](https://www.sjready.org).
- ✓ **Sign up for your community's warning system.** Visit [SJReady.org](https://www.sjready.org) to sign up for SJReady Alerts. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- ✓ **If flash flooding is a risk in your location,** monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.
- ✓ **Learn and practice evacuation routes,** shelter plans, and flash flood response.
- ✓ **Gather supplies** in case you have to leave immediately or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget pet needs, extra batteries, and other critical equipment.
- ✓ **Obtain flood insurance** through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as homeowner's policies do not cover flooding.
- ✓ **Keep important documents in a waterproof container** and password-protect your digital copies.
- ✓ **Protect your property.** Move valued items to higher levels, clear drains and gutters, install check valves and consider a sump pump with a battery.

TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR SAFETY

Go to [SJReady.org/Disasters/Flooding](https://www.sjready.org/Disasters/Flooding) for more information about preparing for a flood and sign up for emergency notifications.



SURVIVE DURING

- ▶ **Go to your identified safe location** based on your location, the flooding impact, and the warning time.
- ▶ **If told to evacuate, do so immediately.** Never drive around barricades as local responders use them to safely guide traffic out of flooded areas.
- ▶ **Get current emergency information and instructions** from EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, SJReady Alerts or local alerting systems.
- ▶ **Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.** Turn Around. Don't Drown.® Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- ▶ **Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water** as they can be washed away without warning.
- ▶ **If your vehicle is trapped in rapid moving water,** stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.
- ▶ **If trapped in a building, go to its highest level.** Do not climb into a closed attic as you may become trapped by rising floodwater. Only go on the roof if necessary, and signal for help.

BE SAFE AFTER

- **Listen to authorities** for information and instructions.
- **Avoid driving,** except in emergencies.
- **Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house.** Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.
- **Avoid wading in floodwater,** as it may contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Be aware that underground or downed power lines can electrically charge the water.
- **Only use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery outdoors** and away from windows.
- **Be aware of the risk of electrocution.** Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.



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