

Army *Safety* Gram

Leading on the Edge for Safety Excellence

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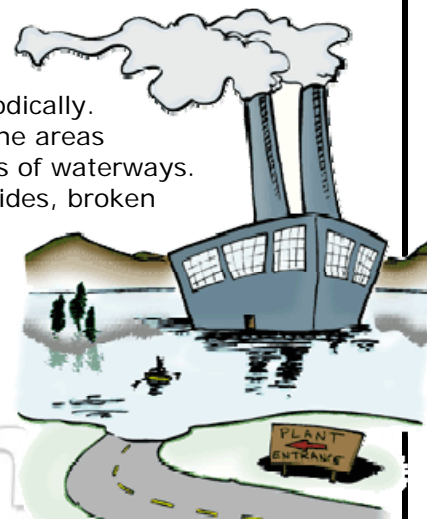
Get the Facts on Flood Safety

What is the flood risk where you work or reside? Federal studies show more than a quarter of flood damage occurs outside the identified flood plains.

A flood plain is an area near a body of water such as a river which floods periodically. It may not flood every year, but it will flood some years. Additional flood-prone areas include land along creeks, streams, canals, lake or ocean bays and other kinds of waterways. Floods can be caused by excessive rainfall, rapid snowmelt, hurricanes, landslides, broken dams or levees and other causes.

Find out if the place where you work or live is below the flood stage water level. Learn about floods that occurred in the past. You should also become familiar with flood warning signs and the flood alert signals for your workplace and community. Take part in evacuation drills with co-workers and family.

Keep a kit of emergency water, food and supplies — the same ones you would have on hand for any other disaster such as an earthquake. A first aid kit is important for this or any emergency.



When a flood threatens, the priority is to save lives and after that, property:

- ◆ If you have time, move valuable possessions, important records and keepsakes to the upper floors.
- ◆ Fill the bathtubs and sinks with water. Then plug the basement sewer drains and toilet drains with wooden stoppers.
- ◆ Follow emergency broadcast instructions about protecting the house with sandbags.
- ◆ If you have to leave, turn off all electrical power at the main switch. Turn off the natural gas at the main shut-off valve. Also turn off the water at the main valve. Teach all family members how to turn off the utilities.
- ◆ Secure items stored outside or bring them indoors.
- ◆ Move pesticides and other toxic chemicals where they will not be touched by floodwaters.
- ◆ Listen to your vehicle radio or battery powered radio for emergency instructions. If ordered to get out, do so right away. If you don't you are risking your life and the lives of people who may try to rescue you.
- ◆ Make sure you know several different routes to escape from your home area. But take the route recommended by emergency authorities because a shortcut could get you caught in the flood. Do not try to drive through flood waters. If your vehicle stalls in water, abandon it right away and walk to higher ground.
- ◆ Register promptly at the emergency reception center so people will know you have escaped safely.

Each year flooding takes lives and destroys property in this country. Learn today how to protect yourself if a flood happens tomorrow.

