

HomeMatters

Loss prevention tips for all your home matters provided by:
CAPAX – Private Practice



Are You Prepared for a Flood?

Why is planning for a flood so important? According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), floods are one of the most common disasters in the United States. It is important to be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds or low-lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood. Plus, it only takes an inch or two of water to cause major damage to your home.

Flood Safety Tips

Know What to Expect:

- Visit the www.fema.gov website for flood risk information in your area.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.

When a Flood Watch is Issued:

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

When a Flood Warning is Issued:

- Gather emergency supplies and fill bathtubs with clean water.
- Tune your radio to weather updates, disaster directions and signals.
- If you must evacuate, take only the essential items with you.
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades; they are there for your safety.

After a Flood:

- Throw away food that is not safe to eat and use bottled water until the local authorities have determined that tap water is safe to drink and use for cooking.
- Avoid interaction with the flood water and mosquitoes to avoid contracting any diseases.
- Stay away from damaged buildings and structures.
- Do not touch fallen power lines or turn on your power until instructed by a qualified electrician.
- Wear protective clothing when handling hazardous materials or cleaning up mold.
- Clean up flood damage promptly.



Safety First

Prepare a family disaster plan by doing the following:

- Keep insurance policies and other valuables in a safety deposit box.
- Identify where you could go if you were told to evacuate. Choose several places to go such as a friend's home in another town, a motel or a shelter.
- Keep written instructions for how and when to turn off electricity, gas and water if the authorities advise you to do so.

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