



Papillion Planning Department Flood Safety

Before a Flood

Before a flood preventative measures can be taken. Preparations should include:

- Do not build in a flood prone area unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Institute appropriate property protection measures.
- Prepare a family disaster plan.

In addition to following these preparation rules, you should also prepare an emergency kit that includes:

- Enough food and water to last three days. Keep food in a water tight container.
- Hand crank or battery operated radio and flashlight with extra batteries.
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle
- Matches in a water tight container.
- Items for personal sanitation.
- You may also consider adding:
 - Food and water for pets.
 - A blanket or sleeping bag for each person
 - Cash
 - Important family documents stored in a water tight container.
 - Clothing

During a Flood

During a flood, the following precautions should be observed:

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 and cautious around streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur suddenly in these areas.
- Review your family disaster plan and locate your emergency kit.

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

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture and move essential furniture and valuables to higher floors in your home.
- 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.

Drowning is the number one cause of death in flood events.

- **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 because:**
 - *Six inches* of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
 - *One foot* of water will float many vehicles.
 - *Two feet* of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.

After a Flood

After a flood, it is important to:

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink. Do not drink water from a well until it is tested and shown to be safe.
- Avoid contact with floodwaters, which may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Take caution when driving in areas where floodwaters have receded because roads may be damaged and could collapse under the weight of a car. Do not drive around barricades.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Report them to OPPD at 1-800-554-6773.
- Do not enter any building that is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings because there may be hidden damage or gas leaks. Do not turn on lights or use an open flame until it is determined that there are no gas leaks.
- 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. Dispose of contaminated food, medical supplies, and cosmetics.
- Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried. Appliances may retain an electrical charge even if they were unplugged.

For more information on flood safety, please contact the Planning Department at (402) 597-2077.