READY NAVY

✓BE INFORMED ✓MAKE A PLAN ✓BUILD A KIT

# Flood

**Preparedness Empowers You**

**It saves lives, property, and time.**

Emergencies happen, often with little or no notice. By taking action beforehand you can be prepared for any emergency.

**Be Ready Navy!**
**I am. Are you?**

Flooding is the most common natural disaster and can occur anywhere. Flooding can be localized in a particular neighborhood or widespread, affecting entire cities or large portions of states and territories. Floods can develop over a period of days, giving you adequate time to prepare; however, flash floods can develop in a matter of minutes. Flash flood waters can be caused by heavy rain, levee breaches, or dam failures. Rushing flood waters can be deeper and stronger than they look. These waters also are destructive and can carry debris, rocks, and mud.

## How to Prepare

1. Be **informed** and know flood terminology:
   - **Flood Watch**—Flooding is possible. Stay tuned to radio or TV for more information.
   - **Flash Flood Watch**—Flash flooding is possible. Stay tuned to radio or TV for more information. Be prepared to move to higher ground.
   - **Flood Warning**—Flooding is currently occurring or will occur soon. Listen for further instructions. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
   - **Flash Flood Warning**—Flash flooding is currently occurring or will occur soon. Seek higher ground on foot immediately.
2. Determine whether your home or work place is in a predetermined floodplain.
3. Identify where you can go if you need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.
4. Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel in your home if you live in an area that has a high flood risk.
5. Consider installing "check valves" to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
6. Make an **evacuation plan** as a family.
7. Make an **emergency communication plan** in case family members are separated.
8. Build an **emergency kit**.

# Flood

## What to Do If There Is a Flood

- Move to higher ground immediately. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Stay tuned to the radio or TV for further information and instructions.
- If you are ordered to evacuate:
  - » Take only essential items, including your family emergency kit.
  - » Turn off gas, electricity, and water.
  - » Disconnect appliances.
  - » Make sure your car's gas tank is full.
  - » Do not walk in moving water.
  - » Do not drive in flood water. As little as six inches of water can cause loss of control and stalling of a vehicle.
  - » 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 swept away quickly.
  - » Follow the designated evacuation plan, and expect a high volume of traffic.
- If you are NOT ordered to evacuate:
  - » Stay tuned to emergency station on radio or TV.
  - » Listen for further instructions.
  - » Prepare to evacuate to a shelter or neighbor's home if your home is damaged.
- Once you are in a safe place, muster with your command if you are military or civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

## What to Do after a Flood

- Listen to news reports to make sure water supplies are not contaminated.
- Stay clear of flood waters (standing and moving) as they may be contaminated or deeper than expected.
- Beware of downed power lines.
- Avoid any roads where flood waters have receded as they may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Be extremely cautious when entering buildings and homes as there may be unseen damage.
- Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by flood water as it can contain sewage and other contaminants.
- After a declared emergency, register your needs with the Navy through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) at *https://navyfamily.navy.mil* or call 1 877-414-5358 or 1-866-297-1971 (TDD).

## Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—*www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods*
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov)—*www.ready.gov/floods*
- FEMA—*www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtm*