



Flood

Flooding is the most common natural disaster and can occur anywhere it rains. 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 **Stay informed:** ALL Marines (active duty and Reserve), civil service, and contractor personnel with a NIPR computer account—verify and update official contact information populated in the **Marine Corps Enterprise Mass Notification System (eMNS)** by information found in the Global Address List (GAL), and self-register all cell phones, home phone, email addresses, etc. in eMNS. Registration of personal information enhances Marine Corps Installations' ability to rapidly provide emergency information and changes to the base's operating status during non-working hours and wherever you are.
- 2 Know flood terminology.
 - **Flood Watch**—Flooding is possible. Stay tuned to radio, TV, and eMNS alerts for more information.
 - **Flash Flood Watch**—Flash flooding is possible. Stay tuned to radio, TV, and eMNS alerts for more information. Be prepared to move to higher ground.
- 3 Determine whether your home or work place is in a predetermined floodplain.
- 4 Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- 5 If feasible, seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds and construct barriers to redirect and stop floodwater from entering the building.
- 6 Obtain flood insurance. There is typically a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before a new flood policy goes into effect.
 - **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.
- 7 Identify where you can go if you need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.
- 8 Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electrical panel in your home if you live in an area that has a high flood risk.
- 9 Consider installing “check valves” to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- 10 Make a written **evacuation plan** as a family.
- 11 Make a written **emergency communication plan** in case family members are separated.
- 12 Build an **emergency kit**.



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What to Do If There Is a Flood

- Move to higher ground immediately. Do not wait for instructions to move. If there is time, move important items to a top floor.
- 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 and eMNS alerts.
 - » 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, follow your command's protocols for personnel accountability and contact your command's designated Point of Contact to check-in and report your location and situation.

What to Do After a Flood

- Listen to news reports for additional flooding or flash floods that may occur and to make sure water supplies are not contaminated.
- Beware of downed power lines.
- Help emergency workers who will be assisting people in flooded areas by staying off the roads and out of the way.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- If you come upon a barricade, a flooded road, or a road where waters have receded, go another way. Roads may be closed because they have been damaged or are still covered by water. Roads weakened by flood waters could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay clear of flood waters (standing and moving) as they may be contaminated or deeper than expected.
- 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.

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
- The National Flood Insurance Program—https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/about/nfip_overview.jsp

