

# STORMS + FLOODS

Floods and flash floods are likely in the event of unexpected heavy rains. Here are some tips for before, during, and after flooding to help keep you safe.



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## 1 PREPARE

- Check the safety of your home and your belongings.
- Clear drains and gutters around the house.
- Gather sandbags to create barriers and floodwalls to stop floodwater. Seal walls in basement to prevent seepage.
- Charge cell phones and any other battery-operated device.

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## 2 DURING

- If instructed by local authorities, turn off the power and water mains.
- Boil tap water for clean drinking water until water sources have been declared safe.
- Avoid contact with floodwater as it may be contaminated with sewage or contain dangerous insects or animals.
- Never use gas or electrical appliances that have been flooded, and dispose of any food that comes into contact with floodwater.
- Don't walk, swim, or drive through floodwater. If caught on a flooded road with rapidly rising waters, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground.
- Stay out of areas subject to flooding; underpasses, dips, low spots, and canyons can become filled with water.
- Continue listening to local area radio, local radio, or your local TV stations for the latest storm information and updates.

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## 3 AFTER

- Do not use water that could be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice, drink, or make baby formula. Dispose of any food that has come into contact with floodwater.
  - In the case of downed power lines, do not step in puddles or standing water and report them immediately to your power company.
  - If any gas or electrical appliances were flooded, don't use them until they have been checked for safety by a professional.
  - Take pictures of home damage, both of the buildings and its contents, for your records.
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