

TERMS TO KNOW

Flood Warning Terms:

Flash Flood Watch—Indicates flash flooding is possible. Residents are urged to be ready to take action if a flash flood warning is issued or flooding is observed. These watches are issued for flooding that is expected to occur within six hours after heavy rains have ended.

Flash Flood Warning—Issued when flooding that is a threat to life or property will occur within six hours. It could be issued for rural or urban areas or along major rivers. Very heavy rain in a short period of time can lead to flash flooding depending on local terrain, ground cover, river conditions and other factors. Dam breaks or ice jams also can create flash flooding.

Flood Hazard—The potential risk to life and limb and damage to property resulting from flooding. The degree of flood hazard varies with circumstances.

Floodplain terms as defined by FEMA:

100-year flood: A flood having a 1 percent or greater annual probability of occurring.

500-year flood: A flood having a 0.2 percent or greater annual probability of occurring.

1,000-year flood: A flood having a 0.1 percent or greater annual probability of occurring.



EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Assemble your supply kit. Keep items in airtight plastic bags or containers. Store your entire kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit should include the following recommended items:

- Several days' worth of food and water
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First-aid kit and whistle
- Extra batteries
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery
- Copies of important documents in a plastic bag
- Warm clothing, sturdy shoes/boots and blankets
- Comfort items for children and pets
- Prescription and non-prescription medications
- Cash
- Fire extinguisher

MAINTAINING YOUR KIT

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place
- Store boxed food in closed plastic or metal containers
- Replace expired items
- Re-think needs every six months and update as needed

STORAGE LOCATIONS

- Home
- Work
- Vehicle

WHEN IT FLOODS

BEFORE

1. **Know your flood hazard** | To learn if you are in a floodplain, or flood zone, call Floodplain Management at 803-576-2158 or visit the Richland County Administration Building at 2020 Hampton St., Columbia.
2. **Purchase flood insurance** | To request a flood agent referral, contact the National Flood Insurance Program at 800-427-4661.
3. **Know your route** | Be familiarized with evacuation zones, so you'll know exactly where to go if local authorities issue an evacuation order.
4. **Have a plan** |
 - Update emergency plans
 - Choose a meeting place in case family members are separated
 - Have a three-day supply of food and water
 - Assemble an emergency kit
 - Gather all medications
 - Share with neighbors any special assistance you may need
 - Store important documents at the highest level in the home

DURING

1. **Turn around, don't drown** | Do not walk or drive through flooded areas.
2. **Be prepared for an evacuation notice from authorities** | If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
3. **Unable to leave** | If you are unable to safely leave your home or a building due to rapidly rising waters, call 911 for help.

AFTER

1. Before re-entering your home, be cautious of potential structural damage, potential gas leaks, electrical shorts and live wires.
2. Have a professional check your heating system electrical panel, outlets and appliances for safety before using. Call the gas company to have the gas turned back on.
3. Find out the procedures for safe clean-up of household items, food, water supply and property. Document your losses. Photograph damage and document repair costs.
4. Mosquito populations can increase after a flood. Empty objects like bird baths of standing water to discourage mosquito breeding. Use protective measures: wear long sleeves and use repellent according to the label.

RICHLAND COUNTY

Emergency Services
803-576-3400

Floodplain Management
803-576-2150

Ombudsman's Office
803-929-6000

FEDERAL AGENCIES

National Flood
Insurance Program
800-427-4661

FEMA Fraud Detection
800-323-8603

VOLUNTEER AGENCIES

American Red Cross
866-438-4636

Salvation Army
800-758-2769



BE
EMERGENCY
READY



DEVELOPING AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Developing a plan for an emergency is critical to ensure you and your family are prepared for whatever situation arises.

STEP 1:

Discuss these questions with your family, friends and household to start your emergency plan.

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?
- Where would we meet if we need to evacuate and are not together?
- Where are all of our important documents?
- Who will be in charge of important documents in case of an emergency/evacuation?
- What supplies do we need to gather for our emergency kit? Where will we store it?
- What is the emergency response plan for workplaces or schools?

Discuss these and other questions that would need to be answered in case of an emergency. Answering these questions now will help you begin developing your plan.

STEP 2:

Consider specific needs in your household.

Tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily needs and responsibilities. Discuss how best to care for children, the elderly and pets, as well as securing your business or ensuring medical equipment will function.

Be mindful of the following factors when making your plan:

- Ages of members in your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs, including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities, medical devices and equipment
- Pets or service animals

STEP 3:

This form is a good starting place to write down your emergency plan. Keep copies of this form somewhere easily accessible by each person in your household.

FAMILY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION PLAN

Household Information

Home Phone Number _____
Address _____

Name _____
Mobile Number _____
Other Number _____
Email _____
Important Information _____

Name _____
Mobile Number _____
Other Number _____
Email _____
Important Information _____

School/Childcare/Caregiver/Workplace

Name _____
Address _____
Emergency Number/Hotline _____
Emergency Plan _____

Name _____
Address _____
Emergency Number/Hotline _____
Emergency Plan _____

In Case of Emergency Contact

Name _____
Number _____
Address _____
Email _____

Out-of-Town Contact

Name _____
Number _____
Address _____
Email _____

Emergency Meeting Places

Indoors _____
Instructions _____

Neighborhood _____
Instructions _____

Other Location _____
Address _____
Instructions _____

Important Numbers and Information

Police/Fire 911
Non-Emergency Police _____
Poison Control _____
Doctor _____
Pediatrician _____
Dentist _____
Hospital _____
Pharmacy _____
Insurance _____
Policy Number _____
Homeowner Insurance _____
Policy Number _____
Flood Insurance _____
Policy Number _____
Veterinarian _____
Kennel _____
Electric Company _____
Gas Company _____
Alternate Transportation _____

STEP 4:

Once your plan is finished, share it with family members and friends. Practice your plan.

PETS AND ANIMALS

- Create a buddy system in case you’re not home. Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your animals.
- Bring all small animals inside and, if possible, take them upstairs.
- Keep your portable pet carriers at hand.
- Keep familiar toys dry. If you have to leave your residence, animals under stress will welcome something that smells of home.
- Consider taking animals to a family member or friend who lives outside the flood risk area until the risk has passed.
- Put documents like vaccination records, your vet’s details and pet’s microchip number in a sealed bag. Include a current photograph in case your pet gets lost.
- Remember to take animal food, water, bowls and bedding with you.
- If you have to evacuate and have no choice but to leave your animals behind, leave them shut inside an upstairs room, if available, with ample supplies of food and water.
- Post notices on exterior doors to indicate there are animals inside.
- Never put your own or another human life in danger to save an animal.