

Storms & Floods Safety

What is the relationship climate change and storms? Climate change is predicted to increase the incidents of intense rain storms, as well as the severity of droughts. Warmer oceans temperatures will fuel stronger tropical storm systems. Sea-level rise will impact drainage capacity of our infrastructure, increasing incidents of flooding and the time it takes to subside.



Health Impacts

Car Accidents
Drowning Deaths
Injury/Lacerations
Electrocution

What residents need to do. Know your risk. Do you live or work in a flood zone, near a waterway or retention pond?

Stay informed by **sign up for CodeRed**, (Picture 1) an emergency notification service, or getting the PBC DART App which provides information on disaster preparedness.

Evacuate or Shelter in Place? Have a Plan!

- o Know the evacuation route and which shelters are open.
- o Pre-register for special needs shelter or transportation assistance. The information is on the card.
- o Communicate with family members and neighbors about your plan for action. Have one contact person (out of the area), communicate with others who may be concerned about you.
- o Have an Emergency Kit Prepared. Include copies of identification papers, insurance policies, medications, and irreplaceable keepsakes. During a declared emergency, prescription medication can be refilled early.
- o Evacuate when told! Don't leave pets behind or tied-up. County-run pet shelters are available on a reservation basis.

Sheltering in place if appropriate.

- o Prevent Damage – Clear storm drains and gutters of debris. Use floodgates or sandbags to protect property. Unplug electrical devices, raise furniture and appliances on blocks.
- o Plan to stay put for 72 hours. Stock food and 1 gallon of water per person per day for 4-5 day supply. Charge communication devices have batteries and flashlights.

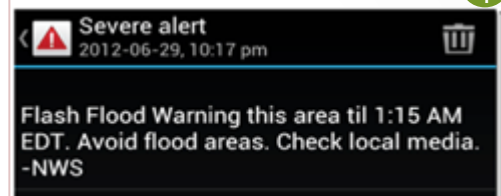
During a flood event, move IMMEDIATELY to higher ground!

It is **NEVER** safe to walk into flood waters. It is difficult to gauge depth and 6 inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet. Concealed objects and uneven surfaces can cause injury or entanglement resulting in drowning. Downed electric cables cause electrocution.

"Turn Around, Don't Drown". DO NOT drive into flood waters. Don't push a stalled car! Just 12 inches of rushing water can carry away a small car and 2 feet will carry away most cars.

Warning Levels

1



Flood Advisory: Be Aware: weather event is forecast become a nuisance

Flood Watch: Be Prepared: Conditions are favorable for flooding. Flooding is possible.

Flood Warning: Take Action! Hazardous weather event is imminent or happening.

Flash Flood Warning: Take Action! Flash flood is imminent or occurring. Move immediately to high ground.

How Much Flooding?

5 to 6" of rain in 24 hours,
standing water in yards, swales and ditches. Crowns of community roads should remain dry and passable.

7 to 9" of rain in 72 hours
Swales, road, lawns and driveways flood as designed, but finished floors of home should remain dry.

15 to 23" or more in a 72 hours
Some businesses may experience finished floor flooding. Some Roads will be flooded.

Key websites

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

<https://www.ready.gov/floods>