



Flood Preparedness

A flood is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the world. Floods can happen anywhere in the United States and its territories. Floods can result from rainfall, snowmelt, coastal or tropical storms, storm surge, and overflows of dams and other water systems. Floods can occur slowly over many days or happen very quickly, and can cause power outages, pollute drinking water systems, and damage homes, buildings, and infrastructure.

Prepare Now	Survive During	Be Safe After
<p>Sign up for Amador County Emergency Alerts and download the Amador County Sheriff's Office mobile app.</p>	<p>Pay attention to weather reports and local news updates and stay alert for potential signs of flash flooding. Follow the instructions in all emergency alert notifications.</p>	<p>After an evacuation, return to your home only after local officials have said it is safe to do so. Pay attention to and follow guidance from local officials.</p>
<p>Know your area's type of flood risk and consider your personal risk of experiencing impacts. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov/portal for more information.</p>	<p>Evacuate immediately when ordered to. Do not underestimate the threat of flooding by failing to evacuate when it is safe to do so. Take critical supplies and documents with you when you evacuate.</p>	<p>Do not assume your drinking water is safe to use or consume after a flood. Check with your local health department.</p>
<p>Purchase flood insurance. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding. Get flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program.</p>	<p>Move to higher ground or the highest level of a building to avoid becoming trapped by rising floodwater but do not climb into a closed attic.</p>	<p>Stay away from floodwater. It may contain hazards, including sharp objects, downed power lines, sewage, bacteria, chemicals, diseased insects and wild or stray animals.</p>



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<p>Have a communication plan to stay connected with family, friends, and neighbors during and after a flood. Plan to text or message because you may not be able to make or receive phone calls.</p>	<p>Do not attempt to cross floodwaters. Floodwater can pose a drowning risk for everyone – regardless of their ability to swim.</p>	<p>Be careful when going outdoors after a flood. Be alert for downed or unstable trees, utility poles and power lines.</p>
<p>Develop an evacuation plan. Consider where you will go and how you will get there. Practice your evacuation route.</p>	<p>Do not drive through floodwaters. The depth of the water is not always obvious and just a foot of moving water can sweep a vehicle – even a sports utility vehicle – off the road.</p>	<p>Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.</p>
<p>Be ready to shelter in place. Evacuation is not always possible or the safest option.</p>	<p>Do not drive into underground roads or through tunnels during a flood.</p>	<p>Only use generators and other fuel-burning equipment outdoors and at least 20 feet away from building openings like windows, doors or garages to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.</p>



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<p>Gather enough food, water, and emergency supplies to last you several days. Consider everyone's specific needs, including medication. Have extra batteries and charges for mobile devices.</p>	<p>Never drive around barriers blocking a flooded road. Floodwaters may have damaged the road or made it unsafe.</p>	<p>Before attempting to clean up debris or repair any property damaged by a flood, hire a qualified flood adjuster. Remember to wear protective gear when you clean up flood debris.</p>
<p>Keep important documents in a dry, safe place such as a fireproof, waterproof container, and create password-protected digital copies.</p>		<p>Document any property damage with photographs. Contact your flood insurer to file a flood insurance claim. Register with FEMA for additional assistance.</p>
<p>Protect your property. Move valued items to higher levels. Elevate critical utilities. Install a backwater valve and a battery-operated sump pump. Declutter drains and gutters. Use sandbags to create a flood barrier.</p>		

For more information, visit:

- <https://www.ready.gov/floods>
- <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>
- <https://www.listocalifornia.org/disaster-readiness/floods/>