



# GET READY FOR HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING



**Watch weather forecasts for the potential of heavy rains or rainfall build-up over multiple days. These guidelines can help you get prepared before the waters rise.**

## Personal Preparedness

- Use the Take Winter By Storm Checklist to prepare an emergency kit, including a radio, flashlight, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, emergency contact information, water, and non-perishable food. You can find a detailed list at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org).
- Keep rain gear, water repellent clothing and extra warm clothing handy at home, work and in your vehicle to use in an emergency.

## Drainage/Landslides

- Rake leaves and debris away from storm drains to keep them clear to avoid flooding streets and damage to personal property.
- Report flooding drains and streets as soon as possible.
- Double-check your homeowner's policy to see if you are covered for storm water damage in your home – if not, add this coverage to your insurance.
- Watch the patterns of storm water drainage on slopes near your home, and note the places where runoff water converges.
- Grade property so water drains away from the foundation and downspouts direct water and from property into the storm drainage system.
- Watch the hills around your home for any signs of land movement, such as small landslides, debris flows or progressively tilting trees. Contact your local geotechnical or structural engineer to determine the severity of the problem.

## Flooding

- Keep valuables on high shelves when storing materials in basements or in areas that are prone to floods.
- Stay out of flooding basements. You could be electrocuted or drown.
- Never drive into standing water or around road-closure signs.
- If your vehicle stalls in water, abandon it and get to higher ground. It takes only a foot or two of rapidly-moving water to sweep away a car.
- If you live near rivers that historically flood, be prepared for river flooding. Have an emergency kit ready to grab and go in case of evacuation.
- Be safe. If a flood warning is issued, get to higher ground immediately! Follow evacuation and other official directions during flood emergencies, but don't wait for them if you think you are in danger.
- Walking or playing around flood waters is dangerous; you can be knocked from your feet in water only six inches deep!
- Homeowners, renters and businesses should purchase flood insurance.
- If your natural gas furnace shuts down because of flooding, shut off the electric supply to the furnace until the water recedes and ducts are dry.
- If you smell a natural gas odor or suspect a leak, leave your home or building immediately and call your natural gas utility or 911.
- Notify your natural gas utility if flooding causes water levels to cover your gas meter. A representative from the utility will need to check the meter and regulator before any gas appliance can be used.
- If you have to evacuate your home or building as the result of a flood, shut off your gas and electricity, only if you can do so safely. This may prevent damage to your gas and electric appliances.
- Call your natural gas utility to schedule a service-check for your natural gas appliances after they have dried out and the area around the affected appliances has been cleaned.

**When heavy rains strike, first ensure your own safety. Then check in with family, friends, and neighbors to make sure they are OK.**