



What Should You Do If You Are At Risk Of Flooding?

For residents in flood prone areas, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) suggests the most effective method of reducing flood damages is to make a plan and be prepared to execute it if necessary. Each flooding situation is unique and every person's response to a flood event should be planned well in advance. Steps should be taken in anticipation of the flood, during a flood and after a flood.

Personal Flood Emergency Plans

- Find out if your home is located in a flood prone area. Call an RVCA Resource Specialist to learn more about your property.
- If you are in a flood prone area, you can "opt in" to receive outgoing RVCA flood messages through email (visit www.rvca.ca to subscribe). You can keep informed by visiting the RVCA website or see messages sent out through Facebook or Twitter.
- Ensure you are familiar with RVCA flood messages and what they mean (water conditions statement, flood watch and flood warning, see below).
- Learn about your municipality's emergency plan: warnings, evacuation routes and locations for emergency shelters.
- Keep valuable items in a secure and dry location.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.
- Pack an emergency kit that can be accessed easily and carried quickly in case of evacuation; include any necessary medication, blankets, extra clothing and flashlights.
- Listen to local radio stations that will carry flood alerts and have a battery powered radio on hand.
- Secure or remove lawn furniture and other loose items in your yard.
- Install a battery powered sump pump that can continue to work in the event that hydro goes out.
- Keep emergency lighting, sandbags and gasoline powered pumps at ready.
- Have boots or hip-waders on hand.

When the Flood Warning Comes

- Move pets, livestock and feed to higher ground.
- Disconnect and move electric motors.
- Turn off gas and hydro.
- Roll up rugs and move furniture to higher levels.
- Find temporary storage for freezer contents.
- Store drinking water in closed containers.

During a Flood

- Do not touch electrical appliances or outlets and do not go into the basement or crawl space as gas buildup or electrical hazards may be present.
- Do not walk through fast moving water. Even six inches of moving water can make you fall. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- If advised to evacuate, move quickly to safety in case the route becomes cut off. Ensure that all family pets are taken out of the area as well if not already relocated ahead of time.
- Avoid driving in or through water.



Flood messages

The RVCA can issue one of three flood messages:

1. **Watershed Conditions Statement:** these statements provide information on current conditions in the watershed that may set the stage for the possibility of flooding if the right weather conditions develop. This is the "heads up."
2. **Flood Watch:** these messages are issued when it is perceived that flooding could result from approaching weather systems or warm air causing rapid snowmelt. Be prepared to activate your flood response plan if necessary.
3. **Flood Warning:** these messages are issued when it is perceived that flood conditions will definitely be experienced. Activate your flood response plan now!



After a Flood

- Monitor local media for emergency instructions on seeking aid, medical care and ways in which to help yourself and the community recover.
- Do not eat food that has come into contact with floodwater. Similarly, medicines and medical supplies that have been in contact with flood water or have lost labels should be disposed of.
- If your water source is from a well, get your well checked and your water tested.
- Use flashlights to enter dark, flooded buildings. Do not use lanterns and candles which could ignite combustibles.
- All materials damaged beyond repair should be discarded through municipal solid waste removal or taken to a commercial waste facility.
- Remove all household waste that might, in warm water, serve as a breeding ground for flies or could cause health problems.
- No attempt should be made to operate any electrical appliances until the wiring in your home or building has been inspected and found safe.
- Three main hazards exist from domestic or other heating systems following flood damage: explosion, suffocation and fire. Take every precaution to ensure that the heating system is safe before using it.
- Learn how to properly dispose of sandbags used on your property (see the RVCA Fact Sheet: *Cleaning Up After the Flood — Proper Handling and Disposal of Sandbags*).
- For more information on preparing for floods visit getprepared.gc.ca.

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