

You can learn if you are within or near the floodplain by checking the City Website:

http://www.harrisburgpa.gov/Downloads/Maps/Flood_Zone_Map.pdf

Proceed with immediate cleanup measures to prevent any health hazards. Perishable items which pose a health problem should be listed and photographed before discarding. Throw out fresh food and previously opened medicines that have come in contact with floodwaters.

Water for drinking and food preparation should be boiled vigorously for ten minutes (*until the public water system has been declared safe*). Another method of disinfecting is to mix 1/2 teaspoon of liquid commercial laundry bleach with 2 1/2 gallons of water. . . let stand for five minutes before using. The flat taste can be removed by pouring the water from one container to another, or adding a pinch of salt. In an emergency, water may be obtained by draining a hot water tank or melting ice cubes.

Take pictures of the damage done to your building and contents. Refrigerators, sofas, and other hard goods should be hosed off and kept for the adjuster's inspection. A good deodorizer when cleaning major kitchen appliances is to add one teaspoon of baking soda to a quart of water. Any partially damaged items should be dried and aired; the adjuster will make recommendations as to their repair or disposal.

Take all wooden furniture outdoors, but keep it out of direct sunlight to prevent warping. A garage or carport is a good place for drying. Remove drawers and other moving parts as soon as possible, but do not pry open swollen drawers (*or doors*) from the front. Instead, remove the backing and push the drawers out.

Shovel out mud while it is still moist to give walls and floors a chance to dry. Special attention at this early stage should be paid to cleaning out heating and plumbing systems. Once plastered walls have dried, brush off loose dirt. Wash with a mild soap solution

and rinse with clean water; always start at the bottom and work up. Ceilings are done last.

Mildew can be removed from *dry* wood with a solution of 4 to 6 teaspoons Tri-sodium Phosphate, 1 cup liquid chlorine bleach, and 1 gallon water.

Clean metal at once then wipe with a kerosene-soaked cloth. A light coat of oil will prevent iron from rusting. Scour all utensils, and, if necessary, use fine steel wool on unpolished surfaces. Aluminum may be brightened by scrubbing with a solution of vinegar, cream of tartar, and hot water.

Quickly separate all laundry items to avoid running colors. Clothing or household fabrics should be allowed to dry (*slowly, away from direct heat*) before brushing off loose dirt. If you cannot get to a professional cleaner, rinse the items in lukewarm water to remove lodged soil. Then wash in lukewarm, mild detergent; rinse and dry in sunlight.

Flooded basements should be drained and cleaned as soon as possible. Remember, however, that structural damage can occur by pumping out the water too quickly. *After* the surrounding floodwaters have subsided, begin draining the basement in stages, about 1/3 of the water volume each day.



WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM?

The NFIP is a federal program established by Congress in 1968 that enables property owners to buy flood insurance at reasonable rates. In return, communities carry out local flood plain management measures to protect lives and property from future flooding.

The Program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through its Federal Insurance Administration.

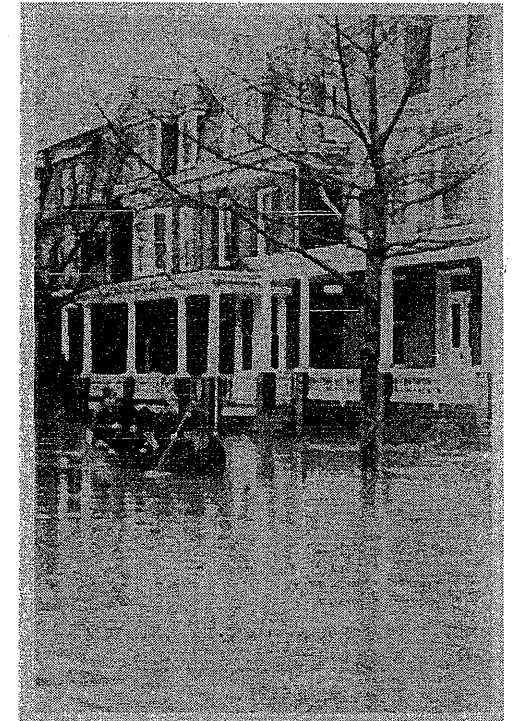
For communities participating in the NFIP, flood insurance is available on almost any building and contents. This includes single- and multi-family dwellings, mobile homes, businesses, government and farm buildings, churches and schools. Contents coverage is also available to renters.

Harrisburg also participates in the voluntary **Community Rating System** which has resulted in lower insurance rates for properties within the City: 20% reduction for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas (aka 100-year), 15% for non-SFHA properties.

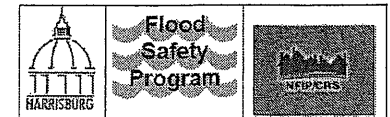
To find out more about flood insurance eligibility and your property's exposure to flood risk, contact any licensed property/casualty agent or broker.

You can also go to the City of Harrisburg's website, or contact the Department of Building and Housing Development at 717.255.6419.

In the Event of a Flood



Tips to Reduce Loss and Damage



Published by the
City of Harrisburg
Linda D. Thompson
Mayor

FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Federal regulations require permits for **all construction work** in the floodplain, including minor projects such as erecting a fence or mail box/sign post. Contact the Building Inspector before you fill, build or otherwise develop. If you see work underway without a permit, report this to the City by calling 255-6553.

CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Federal regulations also require that if the total cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvements within a ten year period, is equal to or exceeds 50% of the market value, the entire structure must meet the same construction requirements as a new building.

Contact the Zoning Administrator and Building Inspector early in your renovation planning process. They can save you time and dollars. A Zoning Hearing may be necessary to approve projects in the floodplain.

STREAM AND STORM SEWER OBSTRUCTIONS

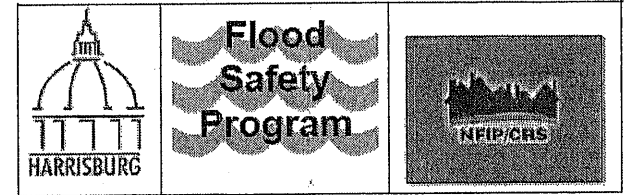
The City maintains storm drainage sewers and clears streams/river banks of debris. Report debris in the Paxton and Spring Creeks or the Susquehanna River to the Dept. of Public Works at 236-4802. City ordinances prohibit dumping in or near streams or obstructing the flow of streams. Report dumping in or near streams; you may receive a reward.

FLOODPLAIN'S NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

You can help preserve the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain by participating in three local non-profit groups: The Harrisburg Parks Partnership, Capital Greenbelt Association and Friends of Wildwood. The City and these groups have restored areas so that these areas can aid in flood control through the natural recycling of water, prevention of erosion, and preservation of plants and wildlife.

MORE INFORMATION

More detailed information on the subjects discussed are available by calling 255-6553 or by consulting the Flood Protection Library at three public libraries in Harrisburg: 101 Walnut Street, 530 South 29th Street and 2410 North Third Street.



FLOOD FACTS



Published by the
City of Harrisburg
Linda D. Thompson
Mayor

FLOOD FACTS

You can learn if you are within or near the floodplain by checking the City Website:
http://www.harrisburgpa.gov/Downloads/Maps/Flood_Zone_Map.pdf

FLOOD INSURANCE

Homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. To make this protection available to you, the City of Harrisburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Contact any licensed casualty insurance agency for details.

Harrisburg also participates in the voluntary **Community Rating System** which has resulted in lower insurance rates for properties within the City: 20% reduction for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas (aka 100-year), 15% for non-SFHA properties.

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARDS

Potential local flood hazards include the slow-rising Susquehanna River, the backup of creeks due to river height, or the failure of the Raystown Dam. Flash flooding can occur on Paxton Creek and Spring Creek.

Brochures available on the City Website or from the

Department of Building & Housing Development



FLOODPLAIN

The City's website has a Flood Zone map. Use the magnifying glass tool to zoom to the level of addresses to learn if a property is in the flood plain or not.

If you do not have Internet access, call DBHD at 255-6419 or 255-6553 to find out.

Large paper maps are included in the Flood Protection Library at three public libraries in the City: 101 Walnut Street, 530 South 29th Street and 2410 North Third Street. The Library contains information on many flood related topics, including how to floodproof homes and other buildings, and how to repair flood damaged buildings.

FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES

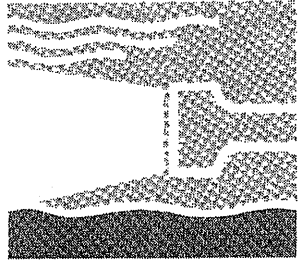
You can take property protection measures now to eliminate or reduce flood damage. Call the Building Inspector, 255-6553, for retrofitting information or on-site advice. The City will provide written information on repairs. While this assistance will also be available after a flood, the staff will be much busier and delays in obtaining technical assistance may occur.

FLOOD WARNINGS

Flood warnings are broadcast on all local radio and television systems and Weather Radio. In addition, the City delivers written notices to places expected to be affected by Susquehanna River flooding. A special warning system alerts affected persons of impending flash flooding of the Paxton Creek through pre-recorded telephone messages. If time is insufficient, police cars will use the public address system or sound their sirens to alert affected areas.

EVACUATION

Police cars will also be used to notify of evacuation. Before leaving, turn off electric at main box and gas at meter. If possible, move furniture to higher floor, sand bag openings, plug basement drains. When evacuating, recognize safety measures put in place for your protection. Do not drive around barricades. Do not go near culverts or streams.



7.

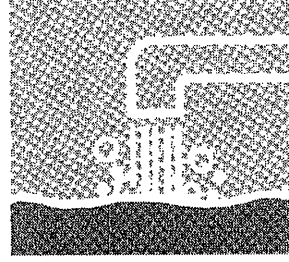
Be Alert for Gas Leaks

Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you are sure that the gas has been turned off and the area has been aired out.

8.

Carbon Monoxide Exhaust Kills

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Fumes from charcoal are especially deadly -- cook with charcoal only outdoors.



9.

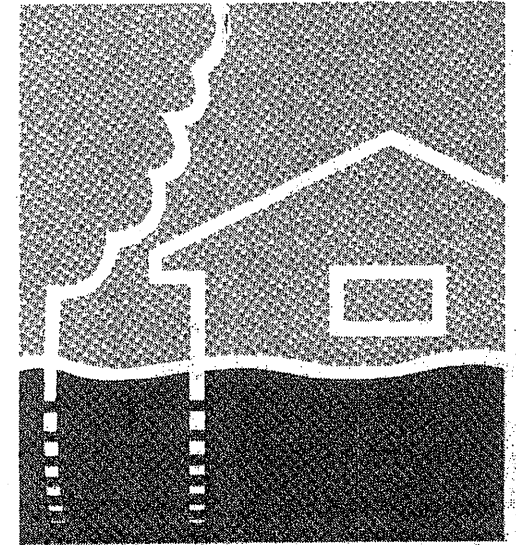
Clean Everything That Get Wet

Floodwaters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Spoiled food and flooded cosmetics and medicines are health hazards. When in doubt, throw them out.

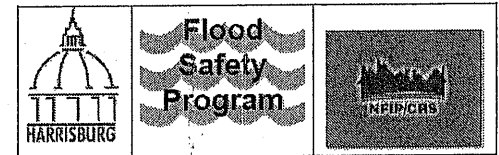
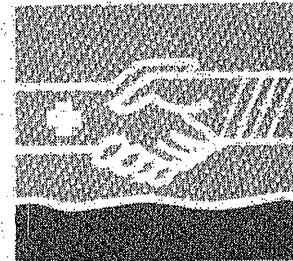
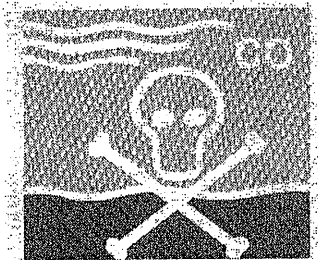
10.

Take Good Care of Yourself

Recovering from a flood is a big job. It is tough on both the body and the spirit. And the effects a disaster has on you and your family may last a long time. Learn how to recognize and care for anxiety, stress, and fatigue.



Flood Safety Tips

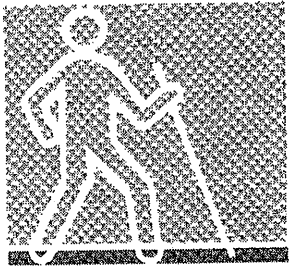


Published by the
City of Harrisburg
Linda D. Thompson
Mayor

Flood Insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program provides coverage not found in homeowners policies. Get it before a flood happens to you. The City of Harrisburg also participates in the voluntary Community Rating System which has resulted in lower insurance rates for properties within the City: 20% reduction for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas (aka 100-year), 15% for non-SFHA properties.

FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

You can learn if you are within or near the floodplain by checking the City Website:
http://www.harrisburgpa.gov/Downloads/Maps/Flood_Zone_Map.pdf



1.

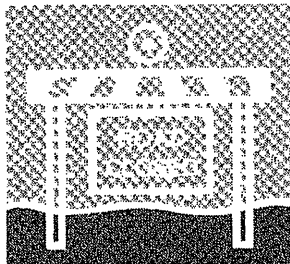
Do Not Walk Through Flowing Water

Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Most occur during flash floods. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole or stick to make sure that the ground is still there before you go through an area where the water is not flowing.

2.

Do Not Drive Through a Flooded Area

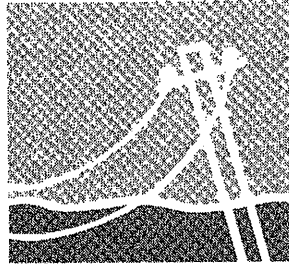
Most people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.



3.

Stay Away From Power Lines and Electrical Wires

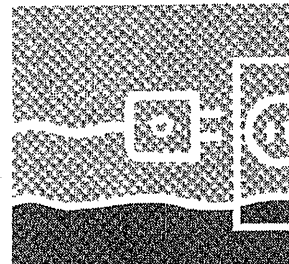
Electrocution is also a major killer in floods. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to your utility company or local emergency manager.



4.

Turn Off Your Electricity When You Return Home

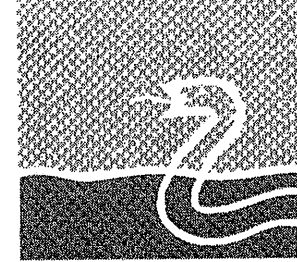
Some appliances, such as television sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.



5.

Watch for Animals, Especially Snakes

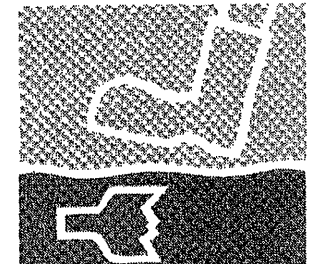
Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn items over and scare away small animals.



6.

Look Before You Step

After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.



HARRISBURG FLOODS
(Susquehanna River)

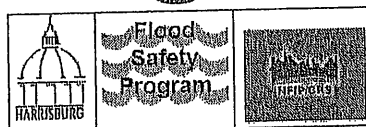
<u>DATE</u>	<u>FEET*</u>
10/05/1786	22.00
03/15/1846	22.00
03/18/1865	24.60
03/19/1868	20.00
01/06/1886	19.00
02/00/1886	20.20**
06/02/1889	26.80
02/19/1891	19.70
05/22/1894	25.70
03/03/1902	22.40**
03/08/1904	20.20**
03/28/1913	19.54
03/30/1914	18.10
03/29/1916	18.80
03/13/1920	20.20
02/13/1925	18.80
03/19/1936	29.32
04/02/1940	19.75
01/01/1943	19.40
05/29/1946	21.80
11/27/1950	19.34
04/02/1960	18.20
02/27/1961	18.48
06/24/1972	32.57
09/27/1975	23.82
01/20/1996	25.08
01/21/1996	24.68
09/20/2004	24.40
04/04/2005	18.80
06/29/2006	19.66

*FLOODING BEGINS ABOVE 17 FEET
**BACKWATER FROM ICE JAM

Approximate drainage area is
24,100 sq. mi.

IF A FLOOD
OCCURS,
EXPECT
TO BE
FLOODED.

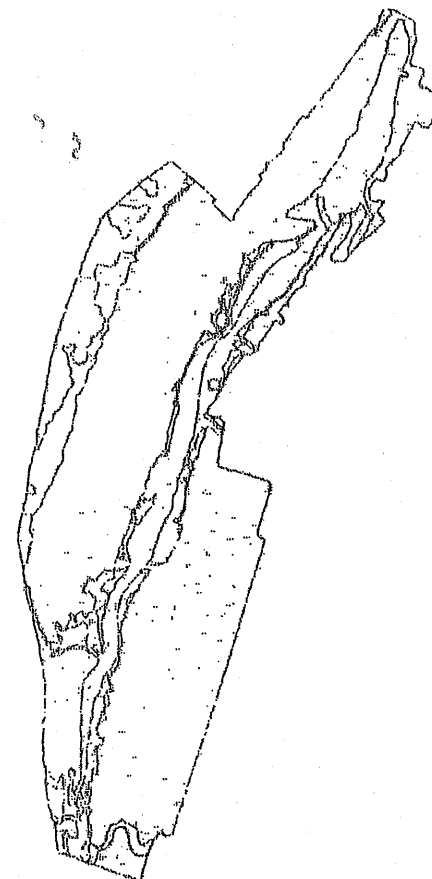
YOU MUST HAVE
FLOOD
INSURANCE
TO PARTICIPATE
IN FEDERAL
PROGRAMS.



Published by the
City of Harrisburg
Linda D. Thompson
Mayor

The City of Harrisburg is a participant in the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program. Due to the City's efforts, property owners/residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area realize a 20% reduction in flood insurance rates. Property owners/residents in other parts of the City realize a 10% reduction.

YOU
ARE IN THE
FLOODPLAIN:
A Guide



You are in the floodplain, the area most likely to flood.

Flood Hazards

Flooding within the City can occur along Paxton Creek, the Susquehanna River and in low-lying spots such as subway underpasses. River flooding is usually slower, giving one more time to evacuate. Paxton Creek can rise due to either river level or heavy rains entering the creek. Water in creeks, subway underpasses and other low places may rise quickly. Do not drive into any water whose depth you do not know. If it is necessary to drive through shallow water (3 inches or less), go at a slow, steady speed; avoid creating waves and splashing windshields. As soon as you are out of the water, slowly test your brakes.

Flood Insurance

The City of Harrisburg has adopted regulations allowing property owners or tenants to purchase discounted National Flood Insurance.

This insurance is required for Harrisburg residents who wish to participate in federal programs such as FHA or VA mortgages or CDBG activities when their property is located within the floodplain. For information on flood insurance contact any licensed insurance agent.

Flood Warning

Flood watches and warnings are broadcast on Harrisburg television and radio stations, weather radio and on the internet at www.nws.noaa.gov. Should it be necessary to evacuate an area, police cars with loudspeakers will drive through neighborhoods making announcements. Information will also be given on television and radio. Every household is urged to have a battery-powered radio to receive such information in the event of an electrical failure.

Flood Safety

During the early stages of a flood, evacuation routes are the same as for TMI or other disasters. Directions can be found in the telephone book, in the blue pages. Plan now for a quick evacuation of your home, in case it ever becomes necessary.

Prior to leaving, if possible, turn off gas service at the main meter and electrical service at the main breaker or fuse box. Do NOT enter a FLOODED basement.

Persons who are hard of hearing or who have other disabilities and will need special assistance during an evacuation should be registered with the Bureau of Fire. Registration is available 24 hours a day, by calling 255-3131.

Property Protection

The City of Harrisburg has compiled a Flood Protection Library that explains ways in which you can protect your property. Copies have been presented to each of the three Dauphin County Library System facilities within the City: Downtown, Kline and Madeline Olewine Memorial.

City Building Inspectors can also provide technical assistance on property protection. Inspectors can be contacted by calling 255-6553.

Federal Disaster Relief

If your home is damaged by floodwaters, the type and amount of federal disaster relief assistance available to you is determined by whether or not your community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and whether or not you have purchased flood insurance. Securing flood insurance is the responsibility of individual property owners and tenants.

The City of Harrisburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which makes benefits available to property owners and tenants within the City. In addition, the City of Harrisburg is participating in the NFIP's Community Rating System, which recognizes local efforts to reduce flood damage and thereby also reduces flood insurance premiums.

Permit Requirements

New construction, additions and repairs of buildings and homes require permits. If the structure is in the floodplain, it may require higher elevation for new construction with major new mechanical systems installed above flood levels. Drawings certified by a licensed professional and a public hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board is likely to secure a permit.

Being in the floodplain, you should apply early for building permits. Be certain of floodplain requirements before expending large amounts of money for designs and plans. Consult with the Codes Bureau by calling 255-6553 or the Planning Bureau at 255-6407.

Draining Maintenance

The City of Harrisburg attempts to keep streams and storm sewers open to reduce the likelihood of flooding. The dumping of debris into waterways such as Paxton and Cameron Creeks and storm inlets is prohibited.

Keep rain gutters, downspouts and piping in good repair. This helps to carry storm water off property. The following practices should be put into use: keep street gutters clear of debris, don't sweep debris into inlets and keep grates of inlets open.

Report blocked or slow draining inlets to the Public Works Department at 236-4802.

In the Event of a Flood – Tips to Reduce Loss and Damage

Even if you have never experienced a flood, you ought to know what to do if floodwaters threaten you, your family, or your community.

The following tips from the National Flood Insurance Program are given as suggested guidelines for action. If you find yourself in a flood situation and do not know what to do, check with your local emergency managers.

STEPS TO TAKE TODAY

Make an itemized list of personal property, including furnishings, clothing, and valuables. Photographs of your home - inside and out - are helpful. This will assist an adjuster in settling claims and will help prove uninsured losses, which are tax deductible.

- **Learn the safest route** from your home or place of business to high, safe ground should you have to evacuate in a hurry.
- **Keep a portable radio**, emergency cooking equipment, and flashlights in working order.
- **BUY FLOOD INSURANCE.** Protection against loss due to floods is *not* covered under a homeowner's policy. You should contact your property/casualty agent or broker about eligibility for flood insurance, which is offered through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Generally, there is a five-day waiting period for this policy to become effective, so don't wait until the last minute to apply.
- **Keep your insurance policies** and a list of personal property in a safe place, such as a safe deposit box. Know the name and location of the agent(s) who issued these policies.

- **Persons who live in frequently flooded areas** should keep on hand materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber which can be used to protect properties. *(Remember, sandbags should not be stacked directly against the outer walls of a dwelling, since, when wet, the bags may create added pressure on the structure.)*

WHEN THE FLOOD COMES

The safety of your family is the most important consideration. Since flood waters can rise very rapidly, you should be prepared to evacuate before the waters reach your property.

Keep a battery-powered radio tuned to a local station, and follow all emergency instructions.

If you're caught in the house by suddenly rising waters, move to the second floor and, if necessary, to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight, and portable radio with you. Then wait for help . . . don't try to swim to safety. Rescue teams will be looking for you.

When outside the house, remember . . . FLOODS ARE DECEPTIVE. Try to avoid flooded areas, and don't attempt to walk across stretches of flood waters that are more than knee deep.



IF, AND ONLY IF, TIME PERMITS . . . there are a number of precautionary steps that can be taken:

- **Turn off all utilities** at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary. Do not touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area, or you are standing on a piece of dry wood while wearing rubber-soled shoes or boots and rubber gloves.

- **Move valuable papers, furs, jewelry, clothing, and other contents** to upper floors or higher elevations.
- **Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs** with clean water in case regular supplies are contaminated (you can sanitize these items by first rinsing with bleach).

- **Board up windows** or protect them with storm shutters or tape (to prevent flying glass).

- **Bring outdoor possessions** inside the house or tie them down securely. This includes lawn furniture, garbage cans, tools, signs, and other moveable objects that might be swept away or hurled about.

If it is safe to evacuate by car, you should consider the following:

- **Stock the car with nonperishable foods** (like canned goods), a plastic container of water, blankets, first aid kit, flashlights, dry clothing and any special medication needed by your family.

- **Keep the gas tank at least half full**, since gasoline pumps will not be working if the electricity has been cut off.

- **DO NOT DRIVE WHERE WATER IS OVER THE ROADS.** Parts of the road may already be washed out.

- **If your car stalls in a flooded area**, abandon it as soon as possible. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car (and its occupants) away. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

AFTER THE FLOOD

If your home, apartment, or business has suffered flood damage, immediately call the agent or broker who services your flood insurance policy. The agent will then submit a loss form to the National Flood Insurance Program. An adjuster will be assigned to inspect your property as soon as possible.

Prior to entering a building, check for structural damage. Make sure it is not in danger of collapsing. Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank, and let the house air for several minutes to remove foul odors or escaping gas.

Upon entering the building, do not use open flame as a source of light since gas may still be trapped inside; a battery-operated flashlight is ideal.

Watch for electrical shorts or live wires before making certain that the main power switch is turned off. Do not turn on any lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the system for short circuits.

Cover broken windows and holes in the roof or walls to prevent further weather damage. The expense of these temporary repairs is usually covered under your flood insurance policy (subject to the policy deductible). *Therefore, it is important to save receipts.*