Disaster Risk Reduction

Flood Safety

Floods are one of the most common and costly disasters in Canada. Floods occur when there is heavy or steady rain for several hours or days, which over-saturates the ground.

Tips:

- Create an emergency preparedness plan and build an emergency preparedness kit for your family, which has enough supplies for your family to be self-sustainable in the event of an emergency for 72-hours.
- Listen to local news and weather reports for any potential flood warnings in your area.
- When a flood warning is issued, listen to local authorities for further directions.
- Check on vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours (the elderly, ill, disabled) who may require special assistance.
- Get trained in first aid, visit www.redcross.ca/firstaid to find a course near you.

What to do:

If you are at home:

- Turn off power and gas lines, if necessary;
- Place your valuables on the upper floor of your house;
- Remain on the upper floor and wait for instructions from your local authorities.

If you are away from home:

- Stay away from swollen streams and rivers, since moving waters can sweep you away, even if you are in a car;
- Head to elevated areas;
- Remain in an area where you are visible and safe.

If you are in your car:

- Be careful when driving – puddles can be deeper than you think;
- Go to an elevated area and park your car there;
- Turn off the engine, get out of your vehicle and wait.

After a flood:

- Only return home when officials have declared it safe to do so.
- Before entering your home, look outside for any damage: loose power lines, damaged gas lines, foundation cracks etc.
- Parts of your home may be damaged – approach entrances carefully.
- Stay away from any fallen power lines.
- Discard any food items which may have been in contact with flood waters. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Do not use water that may be contaminated for washing, cleaning, drinking or food preparation.
- Wear protective clothing - such as rubber boots and gloves – during cleanup.
- If you smell natural or propane gas or hear a hissing noise, leave your home immediately and call 911.
- You can also consult our Guide to Flood Recovery here (http://www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/dm_cr_flood_recovery.pdf)

Be Red Cross Ready! www.redcross.ca/ready