



## Ottawa County Emergency Management Flood Preparedness

*Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters. Conditions that cause floods include heavy or steady rain for several hours or days that saturate the ground. Flash floods occur suddenly due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying areas.*

### Know the Difference

**Flood / Flash Flood Watch**-Flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area.

**Flood / Flash Flood Warning** – Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

## Prepare for Flooding

- Listen to area radio and television stations and a NOAA Weather Radio for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress or other critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- When a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, head for higher ground and stay there.
- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way.
- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood danger.
- Because standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, it is important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance please visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site at [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).
- Safeguard your possessions. Create a file containing information about your possessions and keep in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. The file should have insurance policies with agents contact information as well as a written and photographed record of all major items and valuables. It should also include copies of all other critical documents, including receipts of major purchases.
- Prepare your house by making sure your sump pump is working. Install a battery-operated backup, in case of power failure. Installing a water alarm will also let you know if water is accumulating in your basement. Clear debris from gutters and downspouts. Place the furnace, water heater, washer and dryer on cement blocks at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation.



### ***Family Emergency Kit***

- *Water – at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day*
- *Food – at least a 3 day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food*
- *Flashlight*
- *Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)*
- *Extra batteries*
- *First Aid kit*
- *Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)*
- *Multi-purpose tool*
- *Sanitation and personal hygiene items*
- *Cell phone with chargers*
- *Family and emergency contact information*
- *Extra cash*
- *Emergency blanket(s)*
- *Map(s) of the area*
- *Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)*
- *Pet supplies (a safety plan, collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)*
- *Tools / supplies for securing your home*
- *Extra set of car keys and house keys*
- *Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes*
- *Rain gear*
- *Insect repellent and sunscreen*
- *Camera for photos of damage*