

The Essentials of Flood Preparedness

Snohomish County DEM and the American Red Cross of Snohomish County urge all residents to have an emergency preparedness kit, an emergency plan and a way to stay informed.

Stocking an emergency kit

- First aid kit and essential medications, including copies of prescriptions. A three-day supply is recommended.
- Canned food and can opener. Choose high-protein, non-salty foods.
- At least three gallons of water per person per day.
- Protective clothing, rainwear and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)
- Food, water and special items for your family pets.

Making a plan

- Meet with your family to create a plan. Remember, when disaster strikes, family members may be home or away from home.
- Agree on places to meet. (A place outside your home, if the emergency requires you to vacate your home, and a place in your neighborhood, at a motel or emergency shelter in case you are away and can't return home.)
- Be sure to let out-of-town relatives know where you are and that you and your family are safe. Ask them to help keep you informed of weather conditions.
- Post emergency numbers by telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container.
- Have family members learn basic safety measures like first aid and CPR.

Be informed

- One simple and effective step everyone can take to reduce the impacts of flooding is to monitor the storm drain near your house and keep it free from debris.
- The American Red Cross and Snohomish County DEM welcome inquiries on how to prepare for emergencies, including flooding. Free brochures are available and trained disaster-services personnel are ready to answer questions and offer helpful tips.
- Listen to your radio for information on assistance that might be provided by Snohomish County DEM, the Red Cross and other agencies.
- Learn the terms used on the radio or television that warn of potential flooding conditions.
- Remember, if there is a flood or flash flood warning get to higher ground right away!
- Stay away from flooding areas. Even if it seems safe, remember that just six inches of water can knock a person down and two feet of floodwater can carry a car away.
- If your home has been damaged by flooding, please call Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS) at 425-388-3311, extension 2731. Arrangements can be made for PDS staff to come to your home, and check it for safe occupancy and substantial damage.