

5 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR ANY DISASTER



STEP 1. GET ALERTS

Sign up for warnings at mdready.maryland.gov



STEP 2. MAKE A PLAN

Discuss how loved ones will evacuate and reconnect



STEP 3. PACK A GO BAG

Pack important documents ahead of time. Be ready to grab keys, wallet, phone/charger, medication and personal items



STEP 4. MAKE A STAY BOX

Pack supplies for 3 days at home with no water or power: food that won't spoil, water, plastic bags/bucket for toilet, flashlight, radio and batteries



STEP 5. HELP OTHERS

Be ready to assist those who need help

RESOURCES

Maryland Department of Emergency Management

State guides, alerts and resources at mdready.maryland.gov

Dial 2-1-1

Access to professionals who can direct you to help. Visit 211md.org for more information.

Dial 7-1-1

Maryland Relay serves Marylanders who have difficulty using a standard telephone.

Dial 9-1-1

FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY: Such as disaster response, flood rescues, medical emergencies.

National Weather Service (NWS)

For active alerts, radar images, forecast maps and resources, visit weather.gov
Follow @NWS for updates

Ready.gov

ready.gov/recovering-disaster

Federal guidance on recovery and safety

Maryland Know Your Zone

To find your evacuation zone, go to, KnowYourZoneMd.com



Quick Guide to Safety Before, During, and After FLOODS



BEFORE A FLOOD



Move valuables to higher shelves or floors.



Keep nearby storm drains clear of debris.



Get plastic tarps and sandbags to block floodwater.



Learn the best escape route to higher ground.



Plan transportation to get everyone, including pets and livestock, to safety.



Keep your car's gas tank at least half full.



Plan for power outages, especially for any medical devices powered by electricity and refrigerated medicines. Charge devices and backup batteries.



Be ready to shelter in place with some gallon jugs of water, food you could eat if there is no power, and other items that you use every day.



Talk to neighbors about how you could work together to help keep each other safe.

DURING A FLOOD



Follow reliable sources of information. Dial 2-1-1 to get help, find shelter, or ask questions.



Leave immediately when told by officials to go.



Never walk into moving water. Just six inches of moving water can make you fall.



Never drive into flooded areas. A foot of water will float many vehicles; two feet can sweep away a truck.



If trapped inside by floodwaters, move to higher floors or roof, but not attics. Call 9-1-1.



Avoid contact with floodwater.



Stay alert for mudslides.

EVACUATION ORDER = Serious threat. Get ready or go now if people or animals need extra time.

AFTER A FLOOD

WAIT UNTIL OFFICIALS SAY ITS SAFE TO GO HOME!



Check in with family, friends, and neighbors. If cell towers are down or overrun, try texting.



Wait until officials say it is safe to go home. If you can't go home, dial 2-1-1 to find safe shelter.



Beware of falling trees and damaged structures.



Check for gas leaks and downed power lines. If gas or electrical appliances were flooded, check them for safety before using.



Listen for official announcements on the safety of public water. Wells that flooded should be tested and disinfected.



Be aware potential hazardous chemicals may have been moved or buried by flooding.



If you have flood damage, contact your local emergency manager. Find other recovery resources on government websites.

Content contributed by:

