



## **Flood Safety Checklist**

*Compiled by the Office of Homeland Security-Georgia Emergency Management Agency (OHS-GEMA), the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross*

### **Know What to Expect**

- Know your area's flood risk--if unsure, call your local emergency management agency office, planning and zoning department or [local Red Cross chapter](#).
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.
- Closely monitor a local radio station, TV station or NOAA-weather radio for flood information.

### **Reduce Potential Flood Damage By--**

- Raising your furnace, water heater, and electric panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- Consult with a professional for further information if this and other damage reduction measures can be taken.

### **Floods Can Take Several Hours to Days to Develop**

- A flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area.
- A flood WARNING means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

### **Flash Floods Can Take Only a Few Minutes to a Few Hours to Develop**

- A flash flood WATCH means flash flooding is possible in your area.
- A flash flood WARNING means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon.

### **Prepare a Family Disaster Plan**

- Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

### **Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing--**

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person.
- 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.)
- Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places -- a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

(more)

**When a Flood WATCH Is Issued . . .**

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

**When a Flood WARNING Is Issued . . .**

- Closely monitor NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for the latest weather forecasts. If told to evacuate, do so immediately!

**When a Flash Flood WATCH Is Issued . . .**

- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

**When a Flash Flood WARNING Is Issued . . .**

- Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades . . . they are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

For more information, contact the Office of Homeland Security-Georgia Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-TRY-GEMA or visit these Web sites: [www.gema.state.ga.us](http://www.gema.state.ga.us), [www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/), or [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

#####