

FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

- **Be aware of flood warnings.** When there is a threat of flooding, listen to local radio/TV stations for advice.
- **Stay away from flood waters.** If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around, and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet.
- **Keep children away from flood waters.** Flood waters are not only dangerous but also may be contaminated with hazardous materials and poisonous snakes.
- **Do not drive into flooded roadways or around barricades.** If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, quickly get out of the car and move to higher ground. Most cars can be swept away by less than one foot of moving water.
- **Stay away from power lines.** If power lines are down, do not step in puddles or standing water. Report downed wires to Appalachian Power at 1-800-956-4237.
- **Turn off all utilities.** Turn off gas and electricity service, unplug electric appliances, and be alert for gas leaks.
- **Be cautious upon returning to your home.** Be alert for possible gas leaks, debris that may have been washed into your house, and wild animals that may have sought shelter during the flood.
- **Clean everything that got wet.** During cleanup, wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and boots, to protect yourself from sewage and chemical contaminations. If an item cannot be cleaned, throw it away.

Do Your Part: Be Flood Smart

FLOOD INSURANCE

Obtain flood insurance to provide for protection for the cost of repairs due to flood damage. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding, but flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters, and business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Visit the NFIP website at: <https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance> for an estimate of what flood insurance may cost for your property address. **A policy purchased today will take effect in 30 days, so act now.**



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FLOOD PROTECTION



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FLOOD HAZARDS

Flooding occurs in virtually every community, including Roanoke County. Flash floods are the most dangerous and may occur within a few minutes of excessive rainfall, after a dam failure, or from a sudden release of water held by a “debris jam.” **Flash floods often have a dangerous, unpredictable, and destructive flow of water** that may carry rocks, mud, tree limbs, and other debris, all of which pose a hazard to humans or property caught in the flow path.



Flood waters may carry rocks, mud, tree limbs, & debris.

Overland flooding occurs when rivers and streams overflow their banks. Occasionally, the capacity of storm drain pipes designed to carry stormwater away from streets and yards is exceeded, which then results in street and overland flooding.

For more information about flooding, please visit the following webpage:
<https://roanokecountyva.gov/flooding>

QUICK TIPS FOR FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

MAKE AN EMERGENCY KIT. It should include the following:

- Important documents and contact information; water; non-perishable food.
- Battery operated radio; local maps; emergency blankets.
- Batteries; flashlight; solar chargers for cell phones; first aid kit; medications.
- Change of clothes; cash.
- Tools; duct tape.
- Can opener.
- Whistle; light sticks.
- Trash bags; sanitation supplies; re-closeable storage bags and/or waterproof containers.
- Toilet paper; hand sanitizer; “baby” wipes.

PLAN FOR AN EMERGENCY Consider the following:

- Develop an exit strategy for your family and pets, to include your shelter plan, evacuation route, and a family communication plan.
- Sign up to receive emergency alerts from Roanoke County at <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/rocoalert>
- Acquire flood insurance; review your policy at least annually to ensure you have ample coverage for your needs.
- Make your home safer.
- Develop a detailed inventory of your property’s contents to prove the value of what you owned before a disaster.
- **\$**ave money for a “rainy day.”

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN

In 2020, 59 people drowned in flash floods / river floods in the United States: 31 (53%) were male, while 28 (47%) were female. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), of the 59 fatalities, 37 people were driving; 4 people were walking / hiking; 8 people were at home; 1 person was boating; 4 people fell into flood waters; 1 person was working; and 4 people were associated with other activities. To learn more about these and other related statistics, visit NWS’ website <https://www.weather.gov/arx/usflood>

FLOODING AHEAD TURN AROUND - DON'T DROWN

The majority of people who died in floods made one common and fatal mistake: they drove their vehicles (including pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles), into flood waters.

The U.S. Geological Survey says “water that is one foot deep typically exerts 500 pounds of lateral force on a vehicle. Once the vehicle is floating, the floodwater becomes the steering wheel. If the water is moving, the vehicle may be swept away, tipped on its side, or flipped over, trapping the occupants inside. Also, remember that a bridge or road that cannot be seen under floodwaters may have been undermined or washed out.” So, **when you see flood waters, turn around, don’t drown!**

Watch the video, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik4MUI222pU>