



**American  
Red Cross**

of Northeastern New York

# Stay safe during floods with tips from the American Red Cross



## **Know What to Expect**

- Know your area's flood risk--if unsure, call you're the American Red Cross of Northeastern New York at (518) 458-8111, county emergency management office, or planning and zoning department.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be ready for the possibility of a flood.
- Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information.

## **Reduce Potential Flood Damage**

- Raise your furnace, water heater, and electric panel if they are in areas that may flood.
- Consult with a professional for information on reducing potential flood damage to your home.

## **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**

- Visit [www.redcrossny.org](http://www.redcrossny.org) and click on "Get Prepared" for information on creating your 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**

- Visit [www.redcrossny.org](http://www.redcrossny.org) and click on "Get Prepared" for a checklist of supplies to keep in your family preparedness kit.
- Remember to check your preparedness kit every six months and replace bottled water and seasonal clothing (i.e. warm coats in winter, tee shirts in summer).

- Include 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, such as a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

**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 . . .**

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

**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 a flash flood 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.

And remember...when a flood, earthquake, tornado, fire, or other emergency happens in your community, you can count on the American Red Cross of Northeastern New York to be there to help you and your family. Your local Red Cross is not a government agency and depends on contributions of your time, money, and blood. For more information, please contact the American Red Cross of Northeastern new York at (518) 458-8111 or online at [www.redcrossneny.org](http://www.redcrossneny.org) or contact your county emergency management office.