



# Flooding

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters.

## Know What to Expect:

- Know your area's flood risk. If you are unsure, check the Jackson County Website at [www.mijackson.org](http://www.mijackson.org) for the GIS Flood Map.
- Be alert to the possibility of flooding if it has been raining hard for several hours or steadily raining for several days. Melting snow can also cause flooding.

## Plan Ahead:

- Raise your furnace, water heater, and electric panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies and other important documents and valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit.

For a list of supplies to include in your disaster supply kit, go to: [www.mijackson.org](http://www.mijackson.org) and click on DO 1 Thing.

## When a Flood WATCH is issued:

- 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.
- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case evacuation is necessary.
- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

## When a Flood WARNING is issued:

- Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information. If told to evacuate, do so as quickly as possible.
- If you think flooding has already started, don't wait to be told to evacuate. Act quickly as you may only have seconds to escape.
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains.
- Do not drive around barricades! They are in place for your safety. Two feet of water will float your car! If you come up to a flooded road, STOP! Turn around and go another way.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Almost half of flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles.
- All it takes is six inches of swiftly moving water to knock a person off of his/her feet.

## What to Do After a Flood or Flash Flood:

- Avoid disaster areas. Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations and put you at further risk. Hazards may include contaminated waters, crumbled roads, mudflows, and other hazards.
- Continue to listen to local radio and TV and return home only after authorities indicate it's safe to do so.
- Stay out of any building if flood waters remain around the building. Flood waters often weaken foundations, causing sinking; floors can crack or break and building can collapse.
- Report downed utility lines to the proper authorities.



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- **When entering a building after a flood, use extreme caution. Precautions to take include:**
  - Wearing sturdy shoes to prevent cuts.
  - Using battery-powered lanterns or flashlights to prevent the possibility of a fire.
  - Examining walls, floors, doors, staircases and windows to make sure the building isn't in danger of collapsing.
  - Inspecting foundations for cracks or other damage.
  - Checking for fire hazards, gas leaks, electrical system damage, and sewage and waterline damage.
  - Being alert for animals, especially poisonous snakes, that may have come into buildings with the flood waters.
  - Watching for loose plaster, drywall and ceilings that could fall.

### Additional Resources:

For more information on floods:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention:  
Emergency Preparedness & Response

<http://www.bt.cec.gov/>

American Red Cross

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

National Weather Service

[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Jackson County Health Department: Click on  
Do One Thing

[www.mijackson.org](http://www.mijackson.org)

FEMA Spring Flooding: Risks and Protection  
(National Flood Insurance information is  
included)

[www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/Spring\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/Spring_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

**If you experience an emergency, call 911 immediately.**

*Jackson County Health Department*

*1715 Lansing Ave.*

*Jackson, MI 49202*

*(517) 788-4420*

[www.mijackson.org](http://www.mijackson.org) 

Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

*CDC Public Information*

*English 1-888-246-2675*

*Espanol 1-888-246-2857*

*TTY 1-888-874-2646*