



**Snohomish County
Executive Office**

The Essentials of Flood Preparedness

Snohomish County's Department of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross of Snohomish County urge all residents to have an emergency preparedness kit, an emergency plan, and a way to stay informed.

Stocking an emergency kit

- First-aid kit and essential medications, including copies of prescriptions. A three-day supply is recommended.
- Canned food and can opener. Choose high-protein, non-salty foods.
- At least two gallons of water per person per day.
- Protective clothing, raingear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery powered or crank radio, flashlight (don't forget the 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.)
- Food, water and special items for your family pets.

Making an emergency plan

- Meet with your family to create a plan. Remember, when disaster strikes, family members may be home or away from home.
- Agree on places to meet. (A place outside your home, if the emergency requires you to vacate your home, and a place in your neighborhood, at a motel or emergency shelter in case you are away and can't return home.)
- Be sure to let out-of-town relatives know where you are and that you and your family are safe. Ask them to help keep you informed of weather conditions.
- Post emergency numbers by telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container.
- Have family members learn basic safety measures like first aid and CPR.

Be informed

- One simple and effective step everyone can take to reduce the impacts of flooding is to monitor the storm drain near your house and keep it free from debris.
- Listen to your radio for information on assistance that might be provided by Snohomish County DEM, the Red Cross and other agencies.
- Learn the terms used on the radio or television that warn of potential flooding conditions.

- Remember, if there is a flood or flash flood warning, get to higher ground right away!
- Stay away from flooding. Even if it seems safe, remember that just six inches of water can knock a person down and two feet of floodwater can carry a car away.
- If your home has been damaged by flooding, please call Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS) at 425-388-3311, extension 2731. Arrangements can be made for PDS staff to come to your home, and check it for safe occupancy and substantial damage.

The American Red Cross (www.snohomishcounty.redcross.org) and Snohomish County DEM (<http://bit.ly/WddFSv>) welcome inquiries on how to prepare for emergencies, including flooding. Free brochures are available and trained disaster-services personnel are ready to answer questions and offer helpful tips.

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