






PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

PREPARING FOR FLOOD EVENTS

The most effective way of reducing flood damages is to have a plan in place that is ready to be executed if necessary. This plan should include steps to be taken in anticipation of the flood, during the flood, and after the flood. For more information on preparing a plan, visit getprepared.gc.ca.

- **Know Your Risks:** Find out if your home is located within a flood prone area. For a reasonable fee, South Nation Conservation offers a Property Inquiry Service to property owners.
- **Stay Informed:** Up-to-date flood risk status is available online at www.nation.on.ca, click on the flood message icon on the Homepage.
- **Have an Emergency Plan and an Emergency Kit;** include any necessary medication, blankets, extra clothing, flashlights, gasoline powered pumps, emergency lighting, and sandbags. Have boots or hip-waders on-hand. Learn about your municipality's emergency plan: warning, evacuation routes, and locations for emergency shelters.
- **Talk to your neighbours** and plan to help each other during an emergency.

WHAT DO FLOOD MESSAGES MEAN?

	No flood conditions exist.
	High flows, unstable banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for recreational users. Flooding is not expected.
	Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.
	Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.
	Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.



When the Flood Warning Comes:

- Protect Your Property: store valuable items in a secure and dry location and remove lawn furniture and other loose items from your yard.
- Move pets, livestock and feed to higher ground.
- Disconnect and move electric motors that may be at risk from flooding.
- Turn off gas and hydro. Install a battery powered sump pump that can continue to work if hydro goes out.
- Store drinking water in closed containers.
- Listen to local radio stations for up-to-date flood alerts and have a battery powered radio on-hand.
- Roll-up rugs and move furniture to higher grounds.

During a Flood:

- Do not touch electrical outlets or venture into basements or crawl spaces where gas build-up or electrical hazards may be present.
- Do not walk through fast moving water; even 15 centimetres of moving water can cause tripping hazards. Use a stick to gauge the firmness of the ground in your path.
- If advised to evacuate, move family members and pets quickly and safely, since evacuation routes could close.
- Avoid driving in or through water.

After a Flood:

- Monitor local media for emergency instructions on seeking aid, medical care, and recovery support.
- No attempt should be made to operate any electrical appliances until the wiring in your home or building has been inspected and declared safe by a qualified person.
- There are 3 main hazards from domestic or other heating systems damaged by flood: explosion, suffocation, and fire. Have your heating system inspected by a qualified person before using it.
- Do not eat food or use medicines and medical supplies that have encountered floodwater or have lost labels.
- Private wells – have your well checked and water tested.
- Use flashlights to enter dark, flooded building. Do not use lanterns or candles that could ignite combustibles.
- Discard damaged materials through municipal solid waste removal or taken to a commercial waste facility.

