

2020

Winter Preparedness Emergency Resources Guide



Please use the following resources to make sure you and your family are prepared for a flooding emergency.



KNOW YOUR RISK

Visit <http://msc.fema.gov> to see your location on a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area map.



PREPARE YOUR HOME

Download emergency apps, monitor stream levels and find sandbag locations at www.valleywater.org/floodready



GET INSURED

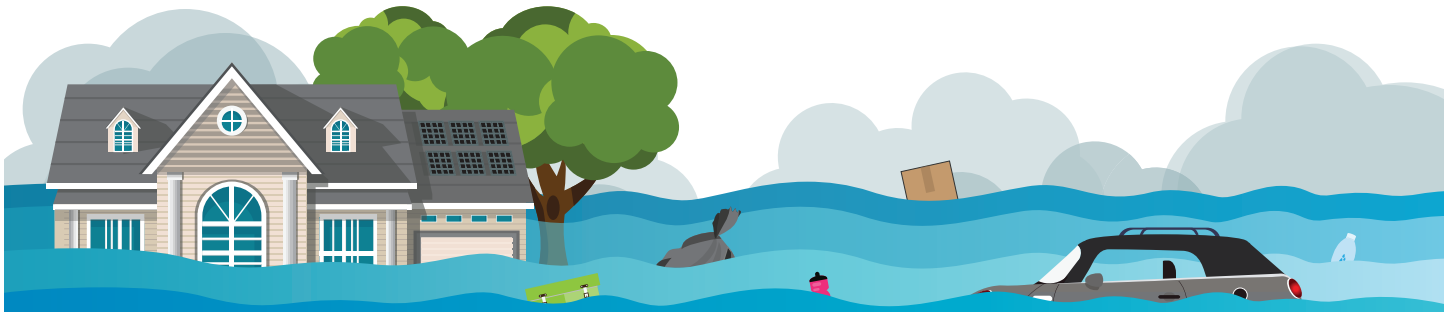
You may need a separate flood policy, both as a homeowner or a renter. Visit www.floodsmart.org to find an agent in your area.

YOU ARE IN A HIGH-RISK FLOOD ZONE.

This zone is designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area, or high-risk floodplain, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

At Valley Water, we are committed to reducing flood risks for our residents and businesses. In the past few years, we have invested more than \$1 billion dollars in flood protection projects, but we all need to be ready.





Flooding can happen. What to do...

Before

- Designate a family meeting spot and prepare a family disaster plan and emergency kit with supplies for your home and car. See www.valleywater.org/floodready for more details. Store important documents and valuables in a safe deposit box available at many local banks.
- Seal cracks in your home's foundation, home exterior walls and small openings around pipes.
- Gather building materials like plywood, plastic sheeting and sandbags.
- Construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Keep rain gutters and drainage channels free of debris. Tarp or seed unvegetated slopes on your property.
- Know your neighborhood streams and drainage channel locations and learn the best route to high ground.
- Learn how to turn off house utilities.
- Keep your car's gas tank full.
- Sign up for early flood warning text alerts at www.valleywater.org/floodready.

During

- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If a flood is imminent, avoid low-lying areas and seek shelter in the highest area possible.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. Evacuation is safer and easier before floodwaters become too deep.
- For more information, see www.ready.gov/evacuation.
- Moving water is dangerous. Six inches of moving water can cause a person to stumble or fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where it is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you and to aid in balance.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground. A foot of water will cause many vehicles to float. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-ups.

After

- Listen for news reports on whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Never walk, swim, drive or play in floodwater. Oil, gasoline or raw sewage may have contaminated the water. Underground or downed power lines may also have electrically charged the water.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your power company. Do not attempt to turn on a gas meter if the service was disconnected. Contact your utility and or your local police department.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Any repairs or improvements greater than 50 percent of a structure's value need to meet National Flood Insurance Program requirements.

CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, email **PREyes@valleywater.org** or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at **<https://deliver.com/2yukx>**.



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