

Electricity

Shut off power in premises in immediate danger of flooding. Don't attempt to do so if the main switch is in a location that has already been flooded. If conditions are wet around the switch box, stand on a dry board and use a dry stick to turn the switch off. Flooded electrical equipment should be checked by a qualified electrician before being used again.

Heating equipment

Special precautions should be taken to safeguard or minimize damage to electrical, natural gas or propane heating equipment. If warning time permits, consult your supplier for steps to be taken. If your heating equipment has been flooded, do not attempt to put it back into service until it has been thoroughly checked by a specialist.

Water contamination

If through taste, color or odor, you suspect that your drinking water has been contaminated, purify it before drinking by boiling, or adding purification tablets, or chlorinating it with a bleaching compound. If the latter is used, add one or two drops per litre and allow to stand for 30 minutes before drinking.

General precautions

- Make sure your battery radio is in working order and listen to local instructions.
- Have emergency food, water and medical supplies on hand.
- Move furniture, electrical appliances and other belongings to upper floors.
- Remove weed killers, insecticides, etc. to prevent pollution.
- Remove toilet bowl and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connection. A linseed bag or wooden plug is ideal.
- Disconnect eaves troughs if they are connected to the house sewer.
- Some homes may be protected by using sandbags or polyethylene barriers, but special methods must be used for each. Don't attempt this type of protection without specific instructions from your local emergency officials.

If a flood forces you from your home...

Take with you:

- Battery-powered radio and spare batteries;