

- Wear shoes in all areas near debris or broken glass.

2. FLOODS

Flood threats to particular areas can usually be forecasted by constant evaluation of rising water tables resulting from heavy rain, surveys of snow conditions in river damage basins, meteorological observations and forecasts.

Flash or sudden flooding, in which warning time is extremely limited, can result from other causes such as earthquakes, tidal waves, hurricanes, violent storms or bursting of dams.

In either case, local government authorities usually will keep residents of areas likely to be affected informed of developments. Through the media, they will recommend action people should take to limit or prevent disaster. At some missions, the Mission Security Officer will keep you informed.

a) Checklist

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 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, colour or odour 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.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

Make sure your battery radio is in working order and listen to local instructions. Keep fresh batteries on hand.

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.

Plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections. A linseed bag or wooden plug is ideal.

Some homes may be protected by using sandbags or polyethylene barriers, but special methods must be used for each. Do not attempt this type of protection without specific instructions from your local emergency officials or Mission Security Officer.