

Flood safety:

Do not walk through water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there as the weight of standing water can cause the ground to sink and/or potholes to develop.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. Water which reaches the bottom of your vehicle cuts the weight of your vehicle in half. Six inches of water over the bottom of your vehicle makes it completely weightless.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company.

Be smart with electrical appliances. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Wear protective clothing. Do not touch anything without first making sure you have proper safety gloves on. Many overturned or floating debris can have sharp and/or jagged edges that can cut you easily. Also, do not attempt to walk, even on dry land, without first wearing sturdy, thick boots. Flooding events cause many animals, such as snakes, to act differently and they can be extremely aggressive.

Above all, BE SMART. Do not go out in a flood. Anything you think you need to look at and all damages which need to be assessed can be done when the water recedes. Please do not put yourself, your family, and emergency personnel in danger.