



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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ALLEGANY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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Allegany County Department of Emergency Services *Flood Safety*

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live; even areas that appear harmless in dry weather can flood.

Remember these flood terms:

- Flood Watch: Flooding is possible
- Flash Flood Watch: Be prepared to move to higher ground
- Flood Warning: Flooding is occurring; if asked to evacuate, do so immediately
- Flash Flood Warning: Flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground immediately

When flooding is forecast or is occurring in your area:

- Monitor weather forecasts for current hazard information. A battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio will provide current information if the power is out. If there is a possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground. Be aware of streams, drainage channels or other areas known to flood suddenly.
- If you must evacuate, secure your home. Move essential items to an upper floor. Turn off utilities at the main switches and valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances but do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

- Don't walk through moving water; six inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to the power company.
- Avoid flood waters. Water may be contaminated with oil, gasoline or raw sewage and may be electrically charged from downed power lines.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- If you had to evacuate, return home only when authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Use caution when re-entering buildings.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.



Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other storm related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood waters. Play it safe – when a roadway is flooded, “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” and find an alternate route.

For questions about this Allegany County Department of Emergency Services information, contact Susan Lee, Deputy Director, Administration, slee@alleganygov.org, T 301-876-9155, F 301-876-9160, 11400 PPG Road, SE, Cumberland, MD 21502-8718