



Volunteer Link

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS EDITION

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Causes of Floods
- Flood Watch vs. Flood Warning
- Flood Preparedness
- Motor Vehicles & Floods
- Helpful Websites to Visit



CONTACT US

Phone:
309-344-2224

Fax:
309-344-5049

Address:
1361 West Fremont
Galesburg, IL 61401



Flooding & Preparedness

Floods are the most frequent & costly natural disasters. Floods are due to heavy rains, spring thaw, new developments or dams.

Flooding occurs when water saturates the ground. Flash floods are different and occur suddenly due to rapidly rising water.

Weather forecasters through around two terms when it comes to floods: **flood watch** & **flood warning**. Flood watch means that flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area. Flood warning means that flooding or flash flooding is already or will be occurring in your area.

Before a Flood:

- Prepare an emergency kit
- Install "check valves" to prevent



water from backing up into your home's drains



During a Flood:

- List to a radio or TV for updates
- Be prepared that flash flooding can occur
- Move essential items to an upper floor/higher ground
- Do not walk through moving water—if you have to walk through water use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you
- Do not drive in flooded areas
- Do not park your vehicle near a body of water

After a Flood:

- Play it safe—listen to the authorities and return home when they give the all clear
- Stay out of damaged areas until authorities say it is safe
- Flood awareness—paths & roads covered during the flood may be weakened
- Stay out of standing water—could be electrically charged due to downed & underground power lines and/or may be contaminated with oil, gasoline or raw sewage
- Clean & disinfect **everything** that got wet during the flood



Flood Facts & Smart Driving

- 6in of water can cause loss of control & stalling in cars
- 12in of water will float most vehicles
- 2 feet of moving water can carry away most cars, SUVs & trucks
- Don't drive on a flooded road—unknown amount of water & road could be washed out
- Barricades are there to protect you!
- Caution—night driving is harder to see flood dangers



More Information on Floods



- After a Flood: The First Steps- <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3396>
- FEMA P-312, Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting Second Edition- <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/480>