



BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Flood Safety

ACTIVE FLOODING

Don't drive through a flooded area. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.

If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

Don't walk through flooded areas. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.

Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. Electrocutation is another major source of deaths in floods. Electric current passes easily through water.

Look out for animals - especially snakes. Animals lose their homes in floods, too. They may seek shelter in yours.

If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic, and if necessary, the roof.

Take dry clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Then, wait for help.

Don't try to swim to safety; wait for rescuers to come to you.

If outdoors, climb to high ground and stay there.

POST FLOODING

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. Listen to a radio or television and don't return home until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.

Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

If your home, apartment or business has suffered damage, call the insurance company or agent who handles your flood insurance policy right away to file a claim.

Before entering a building, inspect foundations for cracks or other damage. Don't go in if there is any chance of the building collapsing.

Upon entering the building, don't use matches, cigarette lighters or any other open flames, since gas may be trapped inside. Instead, use a flashlight to light your way.

Keep power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.

Floodwaters pick up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms and factories. If your home has been flooded, protect your family's health by cleaning up your house right away.

Throw out foods and medicines that may have met floodwater.

Until local authorities proclaim your water supply to be safe, boil water for drinking and food preparation vigorously for five minutes before using.

Be careful walking around. After a flood, steps and floors are often slippery with mud and covered with debris, including nails and broken glass.

Take steps to reduce your risk of future floods. Make sure to follow local building codes and ordinances when rebuilding, and use flood-resistant materials and techniques to protect yourself and your property from future flood damage.