



SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- Flood Safety Tips
- Turn Around, Don't Drown
- Know the Terms
- Flood Watch
- Flash Flood Watch
- Flood Warning
- Flash Flood Warning
- If You Must Evacuate

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Hats ON for Safety

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Rain Rain Go Away...

It seems there has been more than the normal share of floods lately. Some of the worse have affected our four states and our members.

Here are some reminders and **tips** on “**flood safety.**”

Floods are among the costliest natural disasters in terms of property damage, costing billions of dollars each year. Floods are also a threat to life which, unfortunately, many overlook.

Share these tips with your employees, family and friends.

- Keep away from hill-sides and areas where mud flows. Heavy rains associated with floods may cause landslides, burying people and buildings.

- If you live in a flood-prone area, be prepared. Identify at least two escape routes, and keep emergency supplies packed.

- Floods usually happen during or after a period of heavy rain or sudden snowmelt. Listen to your radio for flood forecasts. If you hear a flash flood warning on the radio or hear the roar of approaching waters, act immediately. Head for the



the nearest high ground.

- Supervise children closely. Do not allow them near high water, storm drains or other water hazards.



- Avoid areas subject to flash

flooding such a gullies and creek beds, particularly during wet weather or storms.

- Be especially careful at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- If outside, keep away from all electrical lines, generators and

exposed power sources. These can short out and electrocute you.



Turn Around, Don't Drown

- If you come upon a flooded road, turn around. Do not believe that your heavy vehicle will keep you safe. Your vehicle, just like a ship, will float because of buoyancy. Six inches of water can cause a car to go out of control. In just 18 to 24 inches of moving water, most cars (even trucks and SUVs) can be swept away, and you will have no way of steering or stopping.
- Be extremely careful when you see water over a road. Even shallow water can conceal a washout of a road or bridge, or debris being moved.



- If you are trapped on a second floor, open as many windows as possible to release any gas that may build up from sources on the flooded first floor. Noxious gases caused by flood waters mixing with industrial chemicals can be lethal over time.
- If your vehicle stalls in floodwater, get out and head for high ground quickly and carefully. Don't keep trying to start the vehicle. Many deaths have been caused by people trying to move a stalled vehicle. Your vehicle is one of the most dangerous places to be during a flood.

Some information for this newsletter was taken from 2010 Bongarde Holdings, Inc. and FEMA.gov

Know the Terms

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a flood hazard:

Flood Watch:

Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flash Flood Watch:

Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flood Warning:

Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Flash Flood Warning:

A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

ately.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to



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check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.