



# FLOODING PART TWO: BE PREPARED

Department of Planning & Development

# Contents

## Part 2: Be Prepared

Flood Warning Procedures .....	5
Flood Safety Guidelines .....	6
Before the Flood .....	6
During the Flood .....	8
After the Flood .....	8
Additional Information .....	11

*Flood information is always available at  
[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).*

## Flood Warning Procedures

The following procedures have been set up within Noblesville city limits to inform residents in flood hazard areas about flooding situations.

1. Within Noblesville city limits, the Civil Defense sirens located nearest the flood warning area will sound with a steady warning tone.
2. The radio stations listed in the City's current emergency plan will be provided with the flood emergency information for broadcast; and Comcast Cable will also be provided with flood warning information for broadcast.

WIBC	1070 AM
WGRL	93.9 FM

3. Time permitting, the Noblesville Police Department will conduct a door-to-door warning of impending flooding.
4. To find the location of the closest shelter in case an evacuation is called for, listen to the TV or radio stations listed above, or contact the American Red Cross at 684-1441.



May 2002 flooding

# Flood Safety Guidelines

Residents of flood hazard areas should be especially concerned about the dangers of flooding and should follow the safety recommendations listed below.

## Before the Flood

1. Keep a disaster supply kit.

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and bottled water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes
- Dry clothing

2. Plan and Practice an evacuation route.

- Learn flood warning signs and your community's alert signals.
- Contact your local emergency management office or local Red Cross office to ask if there is a community flood evacuation plan.
- Individuals in flash flood areas should have several alternative evacuation routes.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.
- Plan a meeting place for family members to meet in case of separation. Make sure that everyone knows the location.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the family contact. Make sure that everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact.

- Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
  - Teach children which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
  - Be prepared to evacuate.
3. Take preventive measures and stockpile emergency supplies.
- Plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, nails, hammer and saw, pry bar, and shovels.
  - Have a check valve installed in sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up sewer lines.
  - Use large corks or stoppers to plug shower, tub, or basin drains if you don't have a check valve.
4. Other preventive steps, if time permits.
- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve.
  - Move valuables, such as papers, jewelry, and clothing to upper floors or higher elevations.
  - Fill bathtubs, sinks, and plastic bottles with clean water. First, sanitize the sinks and tubs by using bleach. Then rinse and fill with clean water.
  - Bring outdoor possessions such as lawn furniture, grills, and trash cans inside or tie them down securely.

## During the Flood

1. Don't drive through a flooded area. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and find another way. Rushing water looks deceptively still, and standing water is often deeper than it appears. **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.**
2. If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths unfortunately result from attempts to move stalled vehicles.
3. Don't walk through flooded areas. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
4. Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. Electrocution is another source of deaths in floods. Electric current passes easily through water.
5. Look out for animals, especially snakes.
6. If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor or attic, and if necessary, the roof.
7. Take dry clothing, a flashlight, and a portable radio with you, then wait for help.
8. Do not try to swim to safety, wait for rescuers to come to you.
9. If outdoors, climb to high ground and stay there.

## After the Flood

After the floodwaters have subsided, there are still many dangers. Be careful in areas that have been flooded.

### Flooded Areas

- Roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are still covered by water. Barricades have been placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way.

- Emergency workers will be assisting people in flooded areas. You can help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.
- If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded, stay on firm ground.

## Re-entering Your Home

- Check carefully for structural damage. Examine the outside of your home for loose power lines, gas leaks, foundation cracks, or other damage. See if porch roofs and overhangs still have all their supports. If you see any damage, a building inspector or contractor should check the building before you enter.
- Turn off the electricity. Even if the power company has turned off electricity to the area, make certain your house's power supply is disconnected. Have an electrician check the electrical system to make sure it is safe to use.
- Don't use matches, cigarette lighters or any other open flames since gas may be trapped inside. If you suspect a gas leak or smell gas, leave your home immediately and call the gas company from a safe location.
- Enter the house carefully. If the door sticks at the top, it could mean your ceiling is ready to fall. If you force the door open, wait outside the doorway in case debris falls.
- Check the ceiling for signs of sagging. Wind, rain, or deep flooding may wet plaster and drywall. It is very heavy and dangerous if it falls.
- Make sure the electricity is off and hose down the house to remove health hazards left behind by floodwaters and mud. Shovel out as much as possible. Remove water quickly using a mop or squeegee.
- Throw away any food or medicine that may have met floodwaters.

- If your property is covered by flood insurance, immediately contact your flood insurance agent and request that a loss form be submitted to the National Flood Insurance Program. Be certain that you have made a thorough inventory and have taken photographs documenting your losses.
- You must consider the substantial damage rule when figuring the cost to repair any damaged structure. The explanation of this rule can be found at [www.fema.gov/pdf/floodplain/nfip\\_sg\\_unit\\_8.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/floodplain/nfip_sg_unit_8.pdf).
- Repair and replace responsibly. Flooded mechanicals should be replaced in elevated locations. You may be unable to repair your home due to the extent of flooding. Contact the Noblesville Department of Planning before beginning any work.
- Responsibly dispose of trash and waste while completing repairs. Local nuisance and public health ordinances will prohibit the collection of these types of materials outside unless located in an approved container.
- Do not dump waste into storm drains; they drain to our waterways. You can also help protect natural floodplain functions by reporting broken silt fences; they keep our streams clean.
- Before completing any repairs, contact the Noblesville Department of Planning and Development (776-6325) to inquire whether a building permit is needed.
- There are grants available to communities for funding mitigation projects to reduce or eliminate long-term flood risk to insured buildings. Read more about these grants at [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance)



## Additional Sources of Information

A “Flood Protection Library” collection is maintained by the Hamilton East Public Library, and also by the Noblesville Department of Planning. Contact either entity for additional information on any of the topics discussed in this booklet.

Noblesville Department of Planning  
14701 Cumberland Road, Suite 300  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
(317) 776-6325  
[www.cityofnoblesville.org](http://www.cityofnoblesville.org)

Hamilton County Emergency Management  
1717 Pleasant Street, Suite 100  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
(317) 770-3381

Hamilton East Public Library  
One Library Plaza  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
(317) 773-1384

American Red Cross  
William Fortune Building  
441 East 10th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 684-1441

State of Indiana:  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources,  
Division of Water  
402 W. Washington St., Room W264  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 232-4160

Federal Government:  
Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
Region V  
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60605  
(312) 408-5000  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)



### **Contact Us:**

Department of Planning  
16 S. 10th St., Suite 150  
Noblesville, IN 46060  
(317)776-6325

Visit our web site at:  
[www.cityofnoblesville.org/  
planning](http://www.cityofnoblesville.org/planning)

### **Credits:**

The information contained in this booklet was taken from the FEMA website [www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/](http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/). Cover photos (courtesy of the Noblesville Planning Department): both from May 2002 flooding. Revised June 2013. Please contact the Planning Department at 317-776-6325 for more information.

