

# BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD



**FEMA**

FEMA V-1005/July 2024

**Pay attention to local officials and evacuate flooded areas. Entering floodwaters could result in injury or death.**

A flood is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the world.

Floods . . .



can happen anywhere in the United States and its territories.



can result from rainfall; snowmelt; coastal or tropical storms; storm surge; and overflows of dams and other water systems.



can occur slowly over many days or happen very quickly.



can cause power outages; pollute drinking water systems; and damage homes, buildings, and infrastructure.

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A FLOOD

**Sign up to receive emergency alerts. Follow instructions from local officials.**



**Turn around, don't drown! Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.**

**Plan to evacuate AND be ready to shelter in place.**



**Move to higher ground or a higher floor to stay above rising floodwaters. Do not become trapped in a basement or attic.**

**Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.**



**Purchase flood insurance. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.**



# HOW TO STAY SAFE

## WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS

### Prepare NOW

**Know your area's type of flood risk** and consider your personal risk of experiencing impacts. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal> for more information.

**Sign up to receive emergency alerts and notifications** from your local emergency management office. Learn what common alerts and warnings mean before you are impacted by a flood.

**Purchase flood insurance.** Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.



**Have a communication plan to stay connected** with family, friends and neighbors during and after a flood. Plan to text or message because you may not be able to make or receive phone calls.

**Develop an evacuation plan.** Consider where you will go and how you will get there. Practice your evacuation route.

**Be ready to shelter in place.** Evacuation is not always possible or the safest option.

**Gather enough food, water and emergency supplies** to last you several days. Consider everyone's specific needs, including medication. Have extra batteries and chargers for mobile devices.

**Keep important documents in a dry, safe place** such as a fireproof, waterproof container, and create password-protected digital copies.

**Protect your property.** Move valued items to higher levels. Elevate critical utilities. Install a back valve and a battery-operated sump pump. Declutter drains and gutters. Use sandbags to create a flood barrier.

### Survive DURING

**Pay attention to weather reports and local news updates** and stay alert for potential signs of flash flooding. Follow the instructions in all emergency alert notifications.

**Evacuate immediately when ordered to.** Do not underestimate the threat of flooding by failing to evacuate when it is safe to do so. Take critical supplies and documents with you when you evacuate.

**Move to higher ground or the highest level of a building** to avoid becoming trapped by rising floodwater but do not climb into a closed attic.

**Do not attempt to cross floodwaters.** Floodwater can pose a drowning risk for everyone — regardless of their ability to swim.

**Do not drive through floodwaters.** The depth of the water is not always obvious and just a foot of moving water can sweep a vehicle — even a sports utility vehicle — off the road.

**Do not drive into underground roads or through tunnels during a flood.**

**Never drive around barriers blocking a flooded road.** Floodwaters may have damaged the road or made it unsafe.

### Be Safe AFTER

**After an evacuation, return to your home only after local officials have said it is safe to do so.** Pay attention to and follow guidance from local officials.

**Do not assume your drinking water is safe** to use or consume after a flood. Check with your local health department.

**Stay away from floodwater.** It may contain hazards, including sharp objects, downed power lines, sewage, bacteria, chemicals, diseased insects and wild or stray animals.

**Be careful when going outdoors** after a flood. Be alert for downed or unstable trees, utility poles and power lines.

**Do not touch electrical equipment** if it is wet or if you are standing in water.

**Only use generators and other fuel-burning equipment outdoors** and at least 20 feet away from building openings like windows, doors or garages to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Before attempting to clean up debris or repair any property damaged by a flood,** hire a qualified flood adjuster. Remember to wear protective gear when you clean up flood debris.

**Document any property damage** with photographs. Contact your flood insurer to file a flood insurance claim. Register with FEMA for additional assistance.



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### Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Visit [Ready.gov/floods](https://Ready.gov/floods) and use FEMA's **A Guide for Alerts and Warnings** at <https://go.dhs.gov/3nN> to learn more about flood watches and warnings. Download the free **FEMA app** to get more information about how to prepare.

# BE PREPARED FOR A LANDSLIDE



**Landslides cause  
25–50 deaths and more  
than a billion dollars in  
damage each year.**



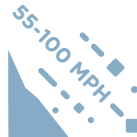
**FEMA**

FEMA V-1007/May 2018

A landslide is rocks, earth, or other materials moving down a slope. A mudflow is a landslide that is combined with up to 60 percent water.



Can strike  
with little or no  
warning



Travel 55–100 miles  
per hour



Caused by rain,  
earthquakes, volcanoes,  
or changes to the land



Can result  
from flooding

## IF YOU ARE UNDER A LANDSLIDE WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Evacuate early to  
avoid landslide risk.



Listen for emergency  
information and alerts.

Watch for signs  
of landslide.



Watch for flooding.

# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A LANDSLIDE THREATENS

## Prepare NOW

**Know the landslide risk in your area.** Contact officials for information on local landslide hazards. Ask whether there is a landslide map of your area or how to get your property checked.

**Learn about the types and signs** of landslides common in your area.

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**Know your community's landslide evacuation plans.** Practice driving evacuation routes and identify shelter locations.

**Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately** or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets.

**Avoid building in areas at risk for a landslide,** such as steep slopes or property close to cliffs, or near drainage ways or streams.

**Plant ground cover and build walls** to direct the flow around buildings.

**Keep important documents in a safe place.** Create password-protected digital copies.

**Review insurance coverage.** Landslide damage may not be covered.

## Survive DURING

**Monitor the area for signs of potential slide activity.** These can include cracks or bulges in the ground, street pavement, or sidewalks; soil moving away from foundations; tilting of patios or foundations; broken water lines; or leaning telephone poles, trees, walls, or fences.

**Evacuate in advance if there are signs of a landslide,** especially if a landslide could occur at night.

**Watch for flooding.** Floods sometimes follow landslides because they may be started by the same event.

**Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio,** or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

## Be Safe AFTER

**Listen to authorities** to find out if it is safe to return.

**Save phone calls for emergencies.** Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.

**Stay away from downed power lines** and report them immediately.



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FEMA V-1007

## Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **landslide**.

# BE PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE



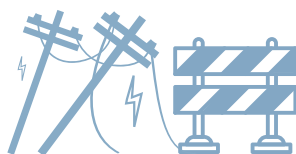
FEMA

FEMA V-1008/December 2023

Power outages are more likely to occur during severe weather events, such as strong thunderstorms, hurricanes and winter storms, or other natural disasters, such as wildfires.

A power outage is when the electrical power is lost unexpectedly.

Power outages . . .



may disrupt communications, water utilities, and transportation for a long time.



may cause businesses, stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, schools and other services to close.



may cause food spoilage and water contamination.



may cause injuries, disease or death, or prevent use of medical devices.

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A POWER OUTAGE

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.



Unplug appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.

Use generators outdoors and at least 20 feet away from building openings.



Make a plan for refrigerating medicines and powering medical devices.

Stay fire safe. Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.



If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling.



Keep mobile phones and electronic equipment charged before a power outage.

# HOW TO STAY SAFE FROM A POWER OUTAGE

## Prepare NOW

**Create a communications plan and keep a paper copy.**

**Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup (if hardwired) on every level of your home and near sleeping areas.** Learn the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning, which include flu-like symptoms.

**Talk to your doctor to make a plan** for how you will use your medical devices that need electricity, store your medications and stay safe during a power outage.

**Gather supplies to last for several days.**

Check your supplies regularly and before predicted extreme weather events. If you aren't able to build a separate emergency supply kit, make sure you know where items that you already have are located.

**Keep mobile phones and other electronic equipment charged before a power outage.** Plan for alternative power sources that you can use to charge devices.

**Determine whether your phone will work in a power outage and how long your battery backup (if applicable) will last.** Remember that landline phones will not work if the lines are damaged.

**Make sure your vehicle's gas tank has plenty of fuel before predicted extreme weather events** in case there's a power outage.

**Install and use your generator safely.** Store fuel safely. Plan to prioritize the things you will need to plug in. You may not be able to power all appliances at one time.

**Prepare to keep the refrigerator and freezer cold with ice.** Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer so that you can make sure food stays at a safe temperature. Be prepared to throw away food that's no longer at a safe temperature.

## Survive DURING

**Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.** Use generators, camp stoves or charcoal grills outdoors, at least 20 feet away from any building openings like windows, doors or garages. Never use a gas stovetop, oven, grill or dryer to heat your home.

**Stay fire safe.** Use flashlights, lanterns and other battery-powered lights. Don't use gas stoves or candles to heat your home. Always use fireplaces, portable heaters and wood-burning stoves safely.

**Don't leave a vehicle running inside a garage,** even if the garage door is left open. If you use your vehicle as a source of power or warmth, make sure to run it in a well-ventilated place outside.

**Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.** A refrigerator will keep food cold for **about 4 hours**. A full freezer will stay a safe temperature for **about 48 hours**. Do not store food in the outside or in the snow during cold weather.

**Unplug appliances, equipment and electronics** to avoid damage from electrical surges. Use surge protection devices.

**Pay attention to water advisories.** Boil water or use bottled water from your emergency supply kit, if needed.

## Be Safe AFTER

**When in doubt, throw it out!** Throw away any refrigerated food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for more than 4 hours. Throw away refrigerated food that has an unusual odor, color or texture.

**Replace refrigerated medications if the power is out for a day or more, unless the drug's label says otherwise.** Call your doctor or pharmacist if you depend on refrigerated medications that have been at room temperature. Only use the medicine until you have a new supply.

### Be Prepared. Multiple Disasters May Happen at the Same Time.

**Know how to stay cool in extreme heat, even when the power is out.**

Find places with air conditioning that you can go to. Find shade, wet your skin with water, avoid high-energy activities and wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.

**Make a plan to stay warm if a power outage happens in the winter.**

Evaluate your safety before leaving your home. Consider spending the coldest parts of the day in a location with heat. Check on family members and neighbors if it is safe to do so.

### Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov/power-outages**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **power outage**.



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FEMA V-1008

# BE PREPARED FOR A TSUNAMI



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FEMA V-1011/May 2018

A tsunami can kill or injure people and damage or destroy buildings and infrastructure as waves come in and go out.

A tsunami is a series of enormous ocean waves caused by earthquakes, underwater landslides, volcanic eruptions, or asteroids.



Travels 20–30 miles per hour with waves 10–100 feet high



Causes flooding, and creates problems with transportation, power, communications, and drinking water



Can happen anywhere along U.S. coasts. Coasts that border the Pacific Ocean or Caribbean have the greatest risk

## IF YOU ARE UNDER A TSUNAMI WARNING



DROP



COVER



HOLD ON

If caused by an earthquake, Drop, Cover, and Hold On to protect yourself from the earthquake first.

Get to high ground as far inland as possible.



Listen to emergency information and alerts.

Be alert to signs of a tsunami, such as a sudden rise or draining of ocean waters.



Evacuate: DO NOT wait! Leave when you see any natural signs of a tsunami OR hear an official tsunami warning.



If you are in a boat, go out to sea.



# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A TSUNAMI THREATENS

## Prepare NOW

**If you live near or visit a coastal area**, learn about the tsunami risk. Some at-risk communities have maps with evacuation zones and routes. If you are a visitor, ask about community emergency plans.

**Learn the signs of a potential tsunami**, such as an earthquake, a loud roar from the ocean, or unusual ocean behavior, such as a sudden rise or wall of water or sudden draining showing the ocean floor.

**Know and practice community evacuation plans** and map out your routes from home, work, and play. Pick shelters 100 feet or more above sea level or at least one mile inland.

**Create a family emergency communication plan** that has an out-of-state contact. Plan where to meet if you get separated.

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**Consider earthquake insurance and a flood insurance** policy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Standard homeowner's insurance does not cover flood or earthquake damage.

## Survive DURING

**If you are in a tsunami area and there is an earthquake, first protect yourself from the earthquake.** Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Hold on to any sturdy furniture until the shaking stops. Crawl only if you can reach better cover, but do not go through an area with more debris.

**When the shaking stops, if there is a warning**, either natural signs or an official warning, move immediately to a safe place as high and as far inland as possible. Listen to the authorities, but do not wait for tsunami warnings and evacuation orders.

**If you are outside of the tsunami hazard zone** and receive a warning, stay where you are unless officials tell you otherwise.

**Leave immediately if you are told to do so.** Evacuation routes are often marked by a wave with an arrow in the direction of higher ground.

**If you are in the water, grab onto something** that floats, such as a raft, tree trunk, or door.

**If you are in a boat, face the direction** of the waves and head out to sea. If you are in a harbor, go inland.

## Be Safe AFTER

**Listen to local alerts and authorities** for information on areas to avoid and shelter locations.

**Avoid wading in floodwater**, which can contain dangerous debris. Water may be deeper than it appears.

**Be aware of the risk of electrocution.** Underground or downed power lines can electrically charge water. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.

**Stay away from damaged buildings, roads, and bridges.**

**Document property damage** with photographs. Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.

**Save phone calls for emergencies.** Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.



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FEMA V-1011

## Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov/tsunamis**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **tsunami**.





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FEMA V-1013/May 2018

# BE PREPARED FOR A WILDFIRE

**Wildfires can ruin homes  
and cause injuries  
or death to people  
and animals.**

A wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or prairie.



Often caused by humans or lightning.



Can cause flooding or create problems with transportation, gas, power, and communications.



Can damage your property. Set up defense zones to protect your home.



Can happen anywhere, anytime. Risk increases with little rain and high winds.

## IF YOU ARE UNDER A WILDFIRE WARNING, GET TO SAFETY RIGHT AWAY

Leave if told to do so.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.

If trapped, call 9-1-1.



Use N95 masks to keep particles out of the air you breathe.

# HOW TO STAY SAFE

## WHEN A WILDFIRE THREATENS

### Prepare NOW

**Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**Know your community's evacuation routes** and find several ways to leave the area. Drive the evacuation routes and find shelter locations. Have a plan for pets and livestock.

**Gather emergency supplies, including N95 respirator masks** that filter out particles in the air you breathe. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

**Keep important documents** in a fireproof safe. Create password-protected digital copies.

**Use fire-resistant materials to build,** renovate, or make repairs.

**Find an outdoor water source with a hose** that can reach any area of your property.

**Create a fire-resistant zone** that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.

**Review insurance coverage** to make sure it is enough to replace your property.

### Survive DURING

**Evacuate.** Leave immediately if authorities tell you to do so.

**If trapped, call 9-1-1** and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help people find you.

**Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems** for current emergency information and instructions.

**Use an N95 masks** to keep particles out of the air you breathe.

### Be Safe AFTER

**Listen to authorities** to find out if it is safe to return and whether water is safe to drink.

**Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers.** The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire. Consider the danger to pets and livestock walking the ground.

**Send text messages or use social media** to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.

**Document property damage with photographs.** Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.



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FEMA V-1013

### Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov/wildfires**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **wildfire**.



# BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM



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FEMA V-1014/June 2018

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.



Greater risk



Can last a few hours or several days



Can knock out heat, power, and communication services

## IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Stay off roads.



Use generators outside only.



Stay indoors and dress warmly.



Pay attention to emergency information and alerts.



Prepare for power outages.



Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.



Check on neighbors.

# HOW TO STAY SAFE WHEN A WINTER STORM THREATENS

## Prepare NOW

**Know your area's risk for winter storms.** Extreme winter weather can leave communities without utilities or other services for long periods of time.

**Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping.** Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

**Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms.** Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

**Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power.** Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.

**Create an emergency supply kit for your car.** Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full.

**Learn to identify the signs of and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia.** For more information, visit: [www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.html).

## Survive DURING

**Stay off roads if at all possible.** If trapped in your car, stay inside.

**Limit your time outside.** If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

**Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows.** Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

**Reduce the risk of a heart attack. Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.**

**Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia and begin treatment right away.**

**Check on neighbors.** Older adults and young children are more at risk in extreme cold.

## Recognize + RESPOND

**Frostbite** causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers, and toes.

- **Signs:** Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, and firm or waxy skin
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

**Hypothermia** is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.



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## Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **[Ready.gov/winter-weather](http://Ready.gov/winter-weather)**. Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **winter storm**.