



Preparing for a Flood

www.ocfa.org

The Rainy Season is Back.

Time for umbrellas, raincoats and the first flush? The first flush is the first significant rainfall after a long period of dry weather. The rain flushes months of accumulated pollutants such as litter, lawn clippings, pesticides, motor oil, and pet waste down storm drains. Heavy rains can also cause significant damage to our homes.



Did You Know?

Flash floods occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy bridges and scour out new channels.

Flash flood-producing rains can trigger catastrophic mudslides.

Two feet of water will carry away most automobiles.

Sandbags are available from local fire stations, City public works and building supply stores. For information, visit

www.ocfa.org/pages/ocfa.asp?filename=st-sandbags.asp

Here's What You Can Do:

Check Your Home and Yard

- Regularly inspect your roof for leaks and have them repaired immediately.
- In late Fall, after the leaves have fallen, clean out gutters, downspouts and roof drains.
- Check out the storm drains in the street. Report them to the water district in your area if they are clogged.
- If you have a pool, keep an eye on its water level. Overflows may cause damage to your home.
- Plant grass seed or other vegetation before the fall rain begins.
- Apply netting and straw mulch on steep slopes.
- Preserve trees and shrubs in streamside areas.
- Incorporate existing native vegetation into your landscape area.
- Inspect frequently for debris in all yard drains.





Surviving A Flood

- If on foot, do not attempt to walk through floodwaters. Go directly to higher ground.
- Keep children and pets away from floodwaters, storm drains and sewers.
- Never drive into a flooded area.
- If your car stalls, immediately abandon it and climb to higher ground.
- If you evacuate by car, do not drive past barricades or where water is over the road.
- Stay on recommended evacuation routes, as shortcuts may be blocked.



When a flood is approaching and only IF time permits

- Close the main gas valve to your home.
- Turn off the main power switch, if you can do so safely.
- Do not touch any electrical equipment unless you are standing on dry ground.
- Lock windows and doors of your home before leaving.
- Evacuate if directed by authorities or if floodwaters are headed toward your home.



Make a Kit, Make a Plan, Stay Informed

- Make an evacuation kit. Keep some old shoes and flashlights handy for a night evacuation.
- Keep valuables, documents & medicines in one place for quick access..
- Have the car ready to go, especially in dangerous weather.
- Have a family emergency re-unification plan. Practice it regularly.
- Stay informed of weather predictions:

For More Information :

www.fema.gov/hazard/flood
www.weather.com/safeside/flood
www.ocfa.org/pages/ocfa.asp?filename=st-sandbags.asp

For Weather Updates:

www.accuweather.com
www.nws.noaa.gov

Local AM-Radio and TV-Stations