

Flood Safety Tips

- Don't walk through flowing water. Do not drive through a flooded area. Floodwater can be much deeper than it appears. Two feet of water can sweep away a car, and as little as six inches can cause unstable footing.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wiring.
- Turn off the power before floodwater enters your home.
- Stay tuned to local media and NOAA weather radio to determine when it is safe to return.
- If your home was flooded, turn off the electricity and get an electrical inspection before restoring power.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to look for damage. Do not use an open flame until the area has been aired out.
- Disinfect everything.
- Drink only bottled or previously stored water until you disinfect your well or if advised of public utility system contamination.
- Throw out food that comes in contact with floodwater.
- Take care of yourself. Watch out for symptoms of anxiety, stress and fatigue. Crisis counseling programs are available through the American Red Cross and other agencies.
- Document your damage with photos or videotape.
- Find receipts or canceled checks for expensive items. Keep receipts for disaster-related expenses.
- Call your flood insurance agent to file a claim and report damage as soon as possible.

Source: Media General News Service