

April 2009

# SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

## FLOOD SAFETY – PART 1

### Before or During a Flood

Floods, especially flash floods, kill more people each year than any other weather phenomenon according to the Department of Homeland Security. Tom Hall, director of FEMA disaster operations in Missouri, urges all residents to constantly be aware of their environment and any potential flooding. A flash flood doesn't call ahead and let you know that it's coming. You must protect yourself by tracking the danger. Keep a close eye on the weather forecast before you go out. Turn on the radio or TV and listen for a watch, advisory, or warning.

If you don't know the difference it's pretty simple, a watch means things might turn bad, an advisory means that some problems have started, and a warning means that things have turned dangerous.

So, before a flood is predicted you can get prepared by being aware of the following:

- Know your flood risk and elevation level.
- Keep your car fueled.

- Store drinking water in containers.
- Keep a stock of food that requires little or no cooking, and no refrigeration (canned & a can opener)
- Keep a first aid kit stocked and on hand.
- Keep a NOAA Weather Radio, battery-powered; emergency cooking equipment, and



If a flood warning has been issued know what type and act immediately! You may only have seconds. Below you will find some flood safety rules:

- If you are outdoors, get to higher ground immediately
- Get out of places likely to flood, ditches, lakes, dry stream beds.
- Avoid already flooded



Listen to the radio or watch the TV for watches, advisories or warnings in your area.

- flashlights handy & in working order.
- Install check valves in sewer traps,
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit containing all of the above items.

- areas. Never attempt to cross running water.
- If your car stalls, leave it and get to higher ground; and
- Never drive through flooded roadways.

### Four Steps to Safety

1. Find out what could happen to you in your area.
2. Create a disaster plan.
3. Complete a safety checklist.
4. Practice and maintain your plan.

More information at:  
<http://www.nilesema.com/familyplanning.htm>

### Additional Information

- [http://extension.missouri.edu/seregion/Storm\\_and\\_Flood\\_Recovery\\_Information.htm](http://extension.missouri.edu/seregion/Storm_and_Flood_Recovery_Information.htm)
- <http://weathereye.kgan.com/cadet/flood/rules.html>
- <http://www.fireengineering.com/news/print.html?id=174942&bPool=FE.pennnet.com%2f>