

# Think Flood Safety this Spring

April 20, 2022 by Sally Lawson

Floods, which are especially prevalent in the spring, are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters. Last year, excessive rainfall brought flooding to many parts of the United States, making it the deadliest year for flooding since 2017.<sup>1</sup> As global temperatures continue to rise, extreme rainfall may continue to increase the potential for flooding in the spring. However, this doesn't mean flood damage and dangers are unavoidable. All it takes to keep your loved ones safe is a little research and preparation.

**Malvern Insurance Associates, LLC** offers the following recommendations on how to react before, during, and after a flood occurs in your area:

## Before A Flood

Assemble an emergency preparedness and home cleanup kit. Items like nonperishable foods, purified water, an emergency cell phone, rubber gloves, a bucket, and a shovel may all be useful tools during a flood. Another smart move is to create a household emergency plan. Part of your plan should consider your community's flood response actions. Above all else, be prepared to evacuate quickly and know your routes and destinations.

It is also helpful to understand the terminology used during flood season. The difference between a flood "watch" and a flood "warning" is a great example. Remember, a watch means a flood is possible in your area, but not yet happening. A warning means flooding is already occurring or is sure to occur soon.





Depending on the severity of the anticipated weather event, you may want to consider evacuating any animals as a precautionary measure, especially if you have numerous or large animals. If you're unable to evacuate your animals, make sure to stock up on extra animal food. Waiting until flooding is imminent is often too late.<sup>2</sup>

## During A Flood

During a flood, it's best to stay abreast of the latest developments in your area. Use your cell phone or radio to listen to local area radio or NOAA radio - or watch a local TV station for the latest information and updates. If an evacuation order is given, make sure to follow your community plan, and don't return home until local officials say it is safe.

When evacuating, it can be tempting to take the shortest route possible. However, overflowing rivers, streams, or water-covered roadways all present greater dangers during a flood. Even a small amount of water is enough to sweep you off your feet or your vehicle off the roadway. If you come across a flooded area, turn around and go another way. When washing dishes, brushing teeth, preparing food, washing hands, making ice, or making baby formula, avoid using water that could have come in contact with floodwaters.<sup>2</sup>

## After A Flood

After a flood, it's time to take stock of your home. Check the outside of your house before you enter. Look for loose power lines, broken or damaged gas lines, missing support beams, and other damage. If possible, don't use gas or electrical appliances that have been flooded until after they have been checked for safety.

Depending on the severity of the flood, you may need to boil tap water until water supplies are declared safe. You may also need to dispose of any food, beverages, or medicine that have come into contact with floodwater.

Finally, wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots, and be cautious when cleaning up. Throw out items that have absorbed water and can't be cleaned or disinfected, including mattresses, carpeting, and stuffed animals.<sup>2</sup>

If you have questions about whether you currently have adequate insurance in the event of a flood, please contact Sally Lawson, Senior Vice President of [Malvern Bank](#) and its subsidiary, Malvern Insurance. You can reach Sally at [610.695.3651](tel:610.695.3651).

## SPRING INTO ACTION

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Please contact Sally Lawson, Senior Vice President for more information

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Stay Safe,

Sally Lawson  
Senior Vice President

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References:

1. <https://weather.com/forecast/national/news/2021-12-20-weather-wishes-2022-less-extreme>
2. <https://www.ready.gov/kids/disaster-facts/floods>