



**BE A
FLOOD
READY
FREDDY!**

Emergency preparedness tips for flood season

TIP #1: PACK AN EMERGENCY KIT!



Emergency supplies will vary depending on the size of your family, and any special medical or dietary needs. Use this checklist to start your kit, and add specific supplies you need, such as food for pets.

Supplies should be ready to go in a backpack or duffel bag and stowed in a waterproof bin to ensure it stays dry in the event of a flood. Make sure everyone in your family knows where your emergency kit is stored and has easy access to it.



Want to get even more prepared? Visit redcross.org

EMERGENCY KIT:

Basic Packing List

- Water (3 gallons/ person)
- Shelf-stable food (don't forget a can opener!)
- Medications (7-day supply)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Multi-purpose tool
- Emergency blanket
- Map of the area
- Cell phone charger
- Hand sanitizer
- Copies of personal documents
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- _____
- _____

Every household should have an emergency kit, especially during flood season. A flood can make roadways impassable, power may be shut off and it may be difficult to shop for food and other basic items. It's best to be prepared with supplies for you and your family to last several days.

* An emergency supply kit is a collection of basic items from your household you may need in the event of an emergency.

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**ONE OF THE
 SMARTEST THINGS
 YOU CAN DO
 TO GET READY
 IS PACK AN
 EMERGENCY KIT
 BEFORE YOU
 ACTUALLY NEED IT.**
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TIP #2: HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN!



CREATE A PLAN.

In an emergency, every second matters.

If family members must evacuate suddenly, you will want to know how or where to find each other.

If children become separated from their parents, make sure they can remember an emergency phone number.



Start by making a family communications plan at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

PRACTICE TOGETHER.

Make sure you go over the plan with your family. Have some fun quizzing your family on important information everyone should have memorized. Hold a timed drill and practice an evacuation with everyone starting in different rooms. See how long it takes to assemble in your designated meeting spot.

Don't worry if the drill doesn't go perfectly - with lots of practice, everyone will follow the emergency plan calmly and confidently.

Ready to talk with the family? Start here!

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?
- What is our designated family meeting spot?
- What are the full names of all our family members?



A severe flood can make buildings unsafe or uninhabitable.

You may need to evacuate your home, workplace, or school. Having an evacuation plan will ensure everyone in your family knows just what to do in a flood. Don't wait until it's too late to communicate. Talk to your family today about your plan for what to do if you need to evacuate during an emergency.

“
MAKE SURE EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY UNDERSTANDS THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN.
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TIP #3: PREPARE FOR YOUR PETS!



In a crisis, your pet could become separated from you. Be prepared by having a current picture of your pet in your emergency kit.

Does your pet have a microchip with an updated emergency contact? Animal shelters and rescue organizations can use this information to help reunite you and your best friend.

+ Ask your veterinarian if you would like to have your cat or dog microchipped.

Pet Packing List

- Canned pet food
(don't forget a can opener!)
- Dry pet food
- Treats
- Bottled water
- Leash and harness
- Pet carrier
- Medication
- Picture of pet
- Vet Records

Pets are a special part of our lives and we would never purposely leave them behind in an emergency, so to help keep them safe we need to plan for the needs of your cats, dogs, hamsters, rabbits, or parakeets. You might be surprised how fast things move during an emergency.

***** The solution? Have a plan prepared specifically for your pets in advance.

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“THINKING AHEAD FOR YOUR FURRY, FEATHERED OR SCALED FRIENDS WILL ENSURE THEY STAY SAFE DURING AN UNFORESEEN FLOOD EMERGENCY.
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- FLOOD READY FREDDY



TIP #4: KNOW YOUR RISK!



STAY INFORMED!

Flood Plain Look Up: Check to see if your home is in a 100-year floodplain. floodsmart.gov

Alameda County: Be sure to sign up for emergency alerts to receive notifications for your area. acgov.org/emergencysite/

Streamflow Chart: The U.S. Geological Service (USGS) provides maps where you can monitor local real-time data on the flow of water through streams. waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Weather Forecast: Watch or listen to the weather forecast provided by a news source you trust. Some TV stations have apps you can download to your phone to receive up-to-the-minute alerts.



Do you know your flood zone?

If you don't, you're not alone. Many people don't know how to accurately measure their home's risk of flooding, and the risk can change over time.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maintain flood maps that show a community's risk of flooding. Designed with local data and updated regularly, they are a great way to find out if your home is in what is known as a 100-year floodplain.

SAN RAMON

Waterways Map



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TURN A DANGER ZONE INTO A SAFETY ZONE BY BEING READY FREDDY.

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TIP #5: PREP THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME.



REMOVE YARD WASTE.

Keep your trees and hedges trimmed and healthy. Overgrown trees and bushes can break away during a storm and end up in flood waters, blocking water flow drainage. If you are raking, trimming, or planting, properly dispose of any leaves, twigs, and debris from your yard to avoid flow into storm drains.

KEEP RAIN GUTTERS CLEAR.

It's easy to put off cleaning gutters, but they can get clogged with leaves and other debris over time, so it's best to clean them regularly. Experts recommend you inspect and clean out your gutters at least once before the rainy season. If your gutters are located under a tree canopy, you will need to check them more often.

Tips to Safely Clean Gutters

- Make sure you use a safe and secure ladder.
- Rake leaves and other debris off the rooftop first.
- Start your gutter cleaning task near the downspout and work toward the closed end.
- Remove twigs, leaves, and other large debris from the base of downspouts.
- Once you've removed the debris from the gutters, use a garden hose to flush the gutters.
- Use a plastic gutter scooping tool like a child's sandbox shovel or an old plastic kitchen spatula!

Preparing the outside of our homes for flood season is just as important as having an emergency plan.

As we care for our yards, we should remove items that could contribute to flood risk.

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BE A FLOOD READY FREDDY BY PROPERLY DISPOSING OF YARD DEBRIS.

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- FLOOD READY FREDDY



TIP #6: HELP FLOOD CHANNELS FLOW SO THEY CAN DO THEIR JOB!



STAY ON MARKED TRAILS

Many parks and recreation areas have channels running through them. Some examples are Big Trees Park in Livermore or Alamo Creek Park in Dublin.

When you or your pet visit one of these areas, you can do your part by staying on the trails, keeping pets on leashes, picking up pet waste and properly disposing of all trash in trash cans.

⚠️ REPORT LARGE ITEMS

If you see a mattress, bicycle, shopping cart, downed tree or other large object in a channel, report it by calling Zone 7 at (925) 454-5000.

PUT GREEN WASTE WHERE IT BELONGS

Even “natural” materials can compromise flood control because the debris can block the flow of water. When that happens, it can raise the water level upstream, making the channel less able to contain flood waters.

Dispose of green waste properly by using the green waste container provided by your waste hauler so it keeps flood channels clear and can be made into compost which is better for the planet.

Leave flood banks in place

It's important to preserve our channels, and that means not building anything that could destabilize the banks.

For example, never construct pedestrian walkways across the channels or modify the banks for dirt biking.

While these may seem like a good idea, they are trespassing and can cause permanent damage to the structural integrity of a channel.

Zone 7 maintains 37 miles of channels. These channels are essential to flood control; they prevent our rivers, streams, and creeks from overflowing by allowing water to flow in and out. During a flood, the water will run into these channels, water levels may rise well above normal but eventually water will drain into a river or other body of water. To keep these channels functional, we must keep them maintained and free of trash and debris. **Here's how you can help!**

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**BE A FLOOD
READY
FREDDY BY
KEEPING
FLOOD BANKS
FLOWING
FREELY.**
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TIP #7: USE SANDBAGS PROPERLY TO GET FLOOD READY!



WHERE TO FIND SANDBAGS

Sandbags are readily available at either of these Zone 7 Water Agency service locations:

- 📍 **Zone 7 Water Agency Administration,**
100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore, CA 94551
- 📍 **Zone 7 Parkside Facility,**
5997 Parkside Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588

You can also find sandbags for sale at your local home improvement store.



Proper Sandbag Placement

- 1** When laying down your sandbags, find the lowest point of entry to your home. This is where water will pool during rains - which can create enough pressure to push water through any openings.
- 2** Each bag should be about 2/3 full so when laid on its side, you will have a full side, and an empty side.
- 3** Place the bags in a neat row, starting by laying the full side down first, then overlapping each bag by placing the full side of each bag over the empty side of the previous bag. This will help keep the sandbags in place.
- 4** When starting the next row, offset the first bag so it begins in the middle of the bag underneath, so there are fewer gaps in between.
- 5** Your finished sandbags should look like bricks. This will help minimize the amount of water that gets through.

Remember to pick up some sandbags to get ready for the rainy season.

During a flood, water can flow into your home underneath doors and through other low-lying structural openings.



Sandbags help keep

water out of your home by temporarily sealing entry points.

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IT MAY SEEM LIKE A SIMPLE JOB, BUT PREPARING SANDBAGS IS NO LIGHT MATTER!

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TIP #8: KEEP STORM DRAINS FREE FLOWING!



YOU CAN HELP PREVENT FLOODS

Keep storm drains free of trash and debris to ensure they're ready for water flows.

Keeping storm drains clear is also an easy way to prevent trash from draining to the bay.

STORM READINESS IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

Unfortunately, it is very easy for trash or leaves to pile up next to a storm drain if no one is paying attention. Remember that if water can't go down the drain, it will flow somewhere else - whether it's the street or your home.

While a storm drain may not be on your property, you can still do some basic maintenance by removing any debris blocking it. You can "adopt" your local storm drain by monitoring it for debris and cleaning it to prevent clogging.

***** Storm drains are an important line of defense for your home during a flood.

Sometimes storm drains can become blocked with leaves or debris. When storm drains are not maintained, they cannot drain water quickly - which could lead to back-ups. When the drains get clogged, storm water spills into our streets and can cause flooding.

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DO YOUR PART TO KEEP STORM DRAINS FREE OF DEBRIS! IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO INSPECT THE DRAIN AND CLEAN IT OUT, IF NEEDED.

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- FLOOD READY FREDDY

How You Can Help

- First, locate any storm drains around your home.
- Then, take a look! It only takes a minute to inspect the drain and clean it out, if needed. Observe how the water would flow into the drain.
- Grab a rake, some gloves, and a trash bag. Rake away any leaves or trash from the preferred path for the water. See, you're already done!

TIP #9: KNOW HOW TO TURN OFF YOUR UTILITIES!



WATER

Cracked lines may pollute the water supply to your house. In that case, you may need to shut off your water until authorities say it's safe to drink.

Learn how to shut off the water in an emergency:

First, find the shut-off valve for the main water line that enters your house and tag it for easy identification. Make sure you can shut the valve off completely. Your valve may be rusted open or it may not close all the way. If so, replace it.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas leaks and explosions cause a significant number of fires after disasters. Don't wait for an emergency to learn how to shut off the gas. There are different procedures for different gas meter configurations, so it's important to call your gas company ahead of time to learn what to do. They can help you prepare for handling gas service and appliances in your home in the event of an emergency.

CAUTION:

If you turn off the gas for any reason, only a qualified professional can turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

BE ALERT:

DOES YOUR HOME USE NATURAL GAS?

If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise coming from a gas line or appliance, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.

SOURCE: ready.gov

We sometimes take water, electricity and natural gas utilities for granted because we use them every day.

But do you know how to shut them off in an emergency? In a flood, you may need to manually shut off your utilities without delay.



Don't wait for an emergency to learn how!

REASONS TO SHUT OFF UTILITIES

There are several reasons that might lead you to shut off your water, electricity, or natural gas utilities in an emergency such as a flood.

- If you have been asked to evacuate your area.
- If there are downed power lines or power outages.
- If there are broken or cracked water lines.
- If gas pipes have been compromised.
- If there is an active fire or a risk of fire.

When in doubt, call your utility to ask for guidance.

ELECTRICITY

Electrical sparks can pose a fire risk in an emergency and can even ignite natural gas. Make sure you can locate your home's electrical circuit box. For your safety, always shut off all the individual circuits before shutting off the main circuit. Consulting with an electrician or local electric utility for guidance is recommended.

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TIP #10: ALWAYS GO AROUND FLOOD WATERS!



MEASURING THE RISK

It is extremely difficult to see how deep flood water is, which is why you should never drive through water on the roadway.

Underneath the water may be large or sharp objects that could damage your vehicle or injure you.

STOP AND GO AROUND!

UNDERSTANDING FLOOD WATER DANGERS

- **6 inches** of fast-moving water can knock an adult off their feet and will reach the bottom of most passenger cars. It can also cause stalling or loss of control.
- **18 inches** of water will float most cars.
- **24 inches** of water can float SUVs and trucks.

Never drive through deep, fast-flowing water and avoid driving through even lightly flooded roads if you can. It's better to add an extra 15 minutes to your journey rather than risk ruining your car's engine and electrical equipment.

KNOW THE SAFEST ROUTES

Did you know that flood water can ruin electric components in your car and can even cause airbags to go off? Learn which roadways are likely to flood and find alternative routes so you can avoid them. Be proactive and leave before the flooding starts to avoid getting stranded.

During a flood, it may be tempting to try to walk or drive through a flooded area. But don't do it!

No matter how prepared you think you are to weather a flood situation, you should **ALWAYS** go around flood waters when walking or driving.

* That puddle of rainwater may not look very deep, but flood waters can be deceptive - and they move quickly.

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IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK - IT'S BEST TO STEER CLEAR OF FLOOD WATERS!
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- FLOOD READY FREDDY



YOUR BEST PROTECTION IS PREPARATION



Find Flood Ready
Freddy's videos and
additional resources
at [zone7water.com/
floodready](http://zone7water.com/floodready)

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN:

Emergency Meeting Place:

Neighborhood:

Out-of-Neighborhood:

In an emergency, these are family members I would call:

Name + Phone:

Name + Phone:

Name + Phone:

Out-of-town contact

Name + Phone:

Out-of-state contact

Name + Phone:

Other Important Information + Medications + Phone Numbers:

Include this Guide and Emergency Plan in your KIT