



Suggested Flash Flood Safety Rules:

Before the Flood:

Stay informed: listen to your Weather Alert Radio; use TV/radio as backups. Consider signing up for a weather alert smartphone app as yet another way to receive warnings.

Find out how many feet your property is above or below possible flood levels so when predicted flood levels are broadcast, you can determine if you may be flooded. Get flood insurance to protect your investment, if desired.

Keep a stock of food which requires little cooking and no refrigeration; electric power may be interrupted.

Keep a portable radio, emergency cooking equipment, lights and flashlights in working order.

Keep first aid and critical medical supplies (prescriptions, insulin, etc.) on hand.

Keep your car fueled; if electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate pumps for several days.

Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency water-proofing.

When You Receive a Flood Warning:

Store drinking water in closed, clean containers. Water service may be interrupted.

If flooding is likely, and time permits, move essential items and furniture to upper floors of your house.

If forced or advised to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.

Cut off all electric circuits at the fuse panel or disconnect switch. If this is not possible, turn off or disconnect all electrical appliances. Shut off the water service and gas valves in your home.

During the Flood:

Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding.

Do not walk into or travel into water of unknown depth, or that is over your calf or hubcap deep in flooded areas. A 3 mph current can sweep the strongest off of their feet. Water above the floor pan can make cars buoyant just long enough to float them off the road. Wait for the water to fall, or find another route.

If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Many drown while trying to rescue their cars.

In low areas, move quickly to high ground if heavy rain occurs. Never camp in dry stream beds.

Do not eat/drink contaminated food or drink; use strict hygiene measures. Diseases, such as typhus and dysentery, are borne by flood water. Keep immunizations current.

If utilities are covered by flood water, do not turn them on until everything is dried out and checked.

Be alert for snakes, rats, possums, raccoons, and other critters taking refuge in your home.



After the Flood:

Do not use fresh foods that have come in contact with flood waters.

Test drinking water for potability; wells should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking.

Do not visit the disaster area; your presence will probably hamper rescue and other emergency operations.

Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas; electrical equipment should be checked and dried before returning to service. Report broken utility lines to Huntsville Utilities.

Use flashlights, not lanterns or torches, to examine buildings; flammable substances may be inside.

Keep tuned to local radio or TV stations for advice and instructions from your local government on where to go to obtain necessary medical care in your area; where to go for emergency assistance such as shelter, housing, clothing, food, etc.; and ways to help yourself and your community recover from the emergency.