

## **Floods**

### Disaster Tips

Floods are overflows of water onto dry land, and they are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Flooding can materialize slowly over many hours or even days, or it can occur very quickly, known as a flash flood. A number of causes can lead to flooding, such as heavy rainfall from storms, snow/ice melt, overflow of a nearby body of water, or a buildup of debris blockage that leads overflow. Homeowner's insurance normally does not cover flood damage. Talk to your provider about your policy and consider acquiring flood insurance (see the National Flood Insurance Program, learn more at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov))

- Elevate the furnace, electrical panel, and water heater in your home, especially if your area has a higher risk of flooding or is near a body of water.
- Consider installing "check valves" that can prevent flood waters from backing up into your home's drains.
- Always have your Emergency Kit handy and updated.
- Bring in any outdoor furniture.
- Move any valuables to higher floors/locations within your home.
- If a flood warning occurs in your area, unplug as many electrical appliances as feasibly possible. However, if flooding is already occurring, Do not touch these pieces of equipment if you are wet, standing in water, or the appliance is in a wet area. You could be electrocuted.
- Be prepared to evacuate.