



Be Ready For Flooding

- A message from your Regional Emergency Management Organization-

As a result of high rainfall in November 2010, Lunenburg County will be entering the traditional spring flooding season with higher water levels and saturated ground. This increases the risk of widespread flooding. The Regional Emergency Management Organization, in collaboration with First Responders, encourages residents and communities to prepare for an effective response to this increased flood risk.

Step 1 Consider the Impacts

Think about how high rain fall, snow melt, and spring flood conditions may affect you, your family, and your community. The impacts of flooding include:

- Fast moving water, floating debris
- Drinking water (well) contamination
- Utility disruptions
- Property damage (flooded basements)
- Road damage, detours
- Evacuations

In our area, the greatest threat of spring flooding is road closures with the potential for residents to be cut off from emergency services due to impassable roads. You may be asked to evacuate if emergency responders are unable to provide services to your location.

Step 2 Prepare for the Impacts

Emergency preparedness involves having a way to deal personally ,with the most likely impacts of an event. To prepare for flooding:

- Listen to weather warnings ,updates, and emergency instructions
- Consider how you could cope with being home (shelter-in-place) for 3 days or more, possibly without power, and have appropriate supplies on hand. Build a 72-hour preparedness kit for your family and pets. Make sure you have adequate drinking water on hand.
- Move loose objects such as outdoor furniture, vehicles and valuables to high ground
- Make sure pumps, generators, and drainage pipes are in working order and clear from debris
- Be ready to evacuate. Know where shut-off valves are within your home in case you are instructed to shut down before evacuating. Make sure you have an evacuation kit on hand. Some items to include in the kit include:

- Documents (health care information, I.D., insurance coverage information)
- Medications (7 day supply)
- Basic needs (clothing, footwear, cash)
- Extra keys for cars and house
- Contact lists for family and friends
- Pet carriers, food and supplies
- Have a plan to monitor family members, neighbours, and property, such as private roads

Step 3 Talk about your Plan

Emergency plans should be shared. Talk to all your family members about what you plan to do, what you might need help with, where you plan to go, and how they can help. Make sure all family members know where emergency supplies are. Talk to neighbours, relatives, and your contacts, to make sure they would be able to provide what you are counting on them for!

Step 4 During Flooding Conditions

Once flooding occurs, put your plans in place.

- Stay away from fast flowing water and keep pets a safe distance away
- Do not attempt to drive through flooded roadways
- Listen to radio updates from emergency officials
- Follow evacuation instructions. An evacuation shelter will be set-up for displaced persons. It is not necessary to stay in the shelter but you will be required to register in order to provide contact information in case emergency officials need to get in touch with you.
- Notify Transportation Infrastructure Renewal (formally DOT) at **1-888-432-3233** to report a flooded road situation.
- For any emergency situation continue to use **911**

Step 5 Relax

Being prepared means you don't have to be scared. Once you know how you and your family could cope, and you have the supplies you need, relax in the knowledge that you have done what you can.

The Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office website, www.gov.ns.ca/emo provides useful information on how to prepare evacuation and 72 hour preparedness kits.