



Before Flooding

Flood Notification

- Alberta Environment monitors provincial water levels and flows. If there is potential for flooding the following notifications may be given:
 - A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that stream levels are rising but no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible and the public is advised to be cautious.
 - A **Flood Watch** means that stream levels are rising and may overflow normal banks. Flooding of areas adjacent to these streams may occur and those potentially affected should take necessary precautions.



- A **Flood Warning** means that rising water levels will result in flooding and those potentially affected should take measures to avoid flood damage.

Listen to the radio and watch the television for the latest storm information. For more information on the above notifications, visit: www.gov.ab.ca/env.

Develop a Family Emergency Plan

- Information is your best defense when emergencies occur.
 - Contact your local Director of Disaster Services or municipal government office to find out what type of disasters / emergencies could occur in your area. Ask what you should do to prepare for each. Familiarize yourself with the type of warning system used in your area.
- Your family emergency plan should include:
 - Arrangements for family members with special needs
 - Arrangements for family pets
 - How your family will stay in contact if separated
 - Local evacuation routes
 - Emergency telephone numbers including a contact person who lives outside of your municipality so that family members can "check in" if separated
 - A neighbourhood plan so that people in your local area can help each other

Create an Emergency Kit

- An emergency can isolate you in your home for several days or may not give you time to search for

needed supplies. Having an emergency kit can help save your life. A properly stocked kit should have the following:



- Water stored in unbreakable containers. Adults should have a minimum of 1 L of water per day for drinking. Replace stored water every 6 months.
- Try to have at least a 5 day supply of food and water for each family member. Foods should be non-perishable and ready-to-eat. Suggested items are:



- canned meat, fruit, vegetables, and a can opener
- canned juices
- granola bars, peanut butter, trail mix
- food for infants / elderly or people on special diets
- comfort / stress foods – cookies, candy, instant coffee, tea



- Medications required by family members
- A solar, wind-up, or battery-operated radio and flashlight
- First aid kit and manual
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Some temporary source of heat such as candles, catalytic heaters
- An all-purpose fire extinguisher

Insurance

- Insurance is readily and reasonably available for homes, and their contents.
- Government disaster recovery programs will not compensate for damage and loss for which insurance was readily and reasonably available before the disaster occurred.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada has information on all aspects of insurance. Their toll free number is **1-800-232-7475**.

How to Floodproof Your Home

- It may be impossible to floodproof every home but some measure can be taken to greatly reduce the chance of flooding.
 - Fill in any settlement next to your house
 - Redirect storm water away from your house
 - Make sure the ground slopes away from your house
 - Install backflow protection valves on toilets, floor drains, washing machine drains, sump pumps, and any sink drains in the basement
 - If you are having trouble with your floor drains, a screw cap can be installed to seal off the drain.

Around the House



Electrical Appliances

- At the first warning of flooding, turn off electrical power and leave it off. Water usually



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ruins electrical motors and powered equipment will almost certainly short circuit.

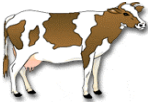
Gas-Fired Appliances

- At the first warning of flooding, turn off all gas-fired appliances and put out the pilot light. Then turn off gas inlet valve to your home. There should be no smoking or open flames of any kind in this area.

Plumbing

- Remove any basement toilet bowls. Plugs these outlets and all other outlets to prevent floodwater from entering.

Protecting Your Farm



- Move threatened machinery, harvested crops, feed, and agricultural chemicals to higher ground.
- Move livestock to higher ground and ensure that a supply of safe feed and water is provided.
- Insurance coverage is available for production loss of crops due to natural perils. Contact Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) at **1-800-396-0215** for more information.

Water Wells



Private Well

- Sandbagging or some other form of protection to prevent flooding and contamination of the wells should be considered.
- If a well is contaminated, water should be sampled and tested before being used for human consumption.

Sandbags

- Using sandbags to build a dyke is a practical way to combat flooding. These are some general guidelines for constructing a sturdy and functional dyke:
 - If possible use burlap bags. They firm up the dyke better than the polyethylene bags.
 - Half fill the sandbags with clay, silt, or sand. **Do not** tie bags.
 - The number of sandbags required per 100 linear feet of dyke are:

1' high dyke = 600 bags
 2' high dyke =2,000 bags
 3' high dyke =3,400 bags



Building the Dyke

- The height of the dyke should be 2 feet higher than the anticipated water level and the base should be 3 times as wide as it is high. Example – if the water will rise 3', the dyke should be 5' high and 15' wide.
- To eliminate gaps, walk on each layer to pack it down.
- Do not tuck the unfilled portion of the sandbag under. Lay the bag so the next bag sits on top of the unfilled portion. The last bag in the row should be tucked under.

General Precautions

- If you are unable to avoid a flood remember the following:
 - Always listen to the radio for updates and instructions
 - Remember your neighbours, especially the elderly who may be unable to care for themselves.
 - Avoid standing water. It may be electrically charged from downed power lines.
 - Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. It may be deeper than you think or lined with concealed debris. Also, wet brakes do not work well.
 - Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. You can be swept off your feet by only 6 inches of water.
 - Do not phone emergency services during a disaster unless you require immediate assistance. Your radio will keep you informed.
 - Do not attempt search and rescue operations on your own.



For more information contact:

Calgary Health Region at **943-LINK** or City of Calgary at **311**

