NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

For over 100 years, public power communities have been providing reliable electric services to its customers. The ElectricCities Emergency Assistance Program takes advantage of the municipalities' hometown connections during emergencies to help each other in times of disaster.

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The American National Red Cross
(202) 303-4498
http://www.disasterrelief.org

Better Business Bureau
(703) 276-0100
http://lookup.bbb.com

Cooperative Extension Services
(202) 720-7441
http://www.reeusda.gov

ElectriCities
(919) 760-6293
http://www.electricities.com/emergency.htm

Federal Emergency Management Agency
(FEMA)
(800) 621-FEMA
http://www.fema.gov/

National Weather Service
(202) 482-6090
http://www.noaa.gov/

FLASH FLOOD

#1 cause of weather-related deaths in the United States

How to help keep you and your property safe during a flash flood

PHOTO BY TODD SANTINI, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Public Power
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WHAT IS A FLASH FLOOD?

A flash flood occurs when a body of water overflows its banks with little or no warning. Flash flooding usually occurs when a thunderstorm stalls over an area quickly filling up creeks, rivers, and lakes. Flash floods can also happen where there is a dam break or there has been heavy rain from a hurricane.

Flash floods can happen up to six hours after a storm or other event takes place. Flash floods are very dangerous. They have enough power to demolish buildings and bridges and to move boulders.

being prepared

If you live or work in an area prone to flooding have the following ready:

- Purchase flood insurance. Flood damage is only covered under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Plan on where to gather and/or call family and coworkers.
- Plan what to do with pets. Shelters will not accept pets.
- Plan where to move cars, motor homes, campers, trailers, ATVs, equipment, and livestock.
- A weather radio to listen to reports of exactly where the flash flooding is happening.
- Have the following disaster kit ready.

disaster kit

The following items should be stored in watertight containers. Replace the items every six months.

- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- 3 gallons drinking water per person
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food such as peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruit, and snack bars. Don’t forget the can opener!
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications and contact lenses
- Baby needs such as formula, diapers, and bottles
- Toilet paper
- Pet supplies
- Important documents such as social security cards, birth certificates, proof that you own or rent the property, insurance papers, and receipts for major appliances

during a storm

When a flash flood alert has been issued:

- Never attempt to cross water by vehicle or on foot. Half of all flash flood deaths are auto related. Waters can rise as high as 10 feet in a matter of seconds. Also, there may be hidden debris that could cause injury or damage.
- If you get trapped in a building, home, or car get out as fast as possible and get to higher ground.
- If you have to be evacuated bring your disaster kit, and a cell phone and charger.
- Be especially careful at night when it’s harder to see flood dangers.

after a flood

Check with local authorities to make sure it is safe to go back.

- Report any broken utility lines to the company.
- Take photographs and videos as soon as possible.
- Have well water tested. Boil or use bottled water until this is done.
- If you have to make repairs or clean up:
  - Wear a mask so as not to inhale mold spores and sturdy shoes to protect the feet.
  - Always throw away food, cosmetics, stuffed animals, and baby toys that have been touched by the floodwater. Mattresses, pillows, carpet and padding, upholstery, and books will usually be thrown out as well.
  - Be aware of scam artists who overcharge or ask to be prepaid for services. Contact your local Better Business Bureau.
  - Think about floodproofing your home. Your county Cooperative Extension or state FEMA office can help.
- Cleaning up after a storm is a stressful time for you and your family. Find ways to relieve stress.
- Help your neighbors. Offer to give them a ride, run an errand, or to help clean up.