

FLOODING EMERGENCY

The most effective method of reducing flood damages is to prepare a plan and carry it out if necessary.

Each flooding situation is unique and every person's response to a flood event should be planned well in advance. Here are some of the things one may plan to do in the event of a flood emergency.

Municipal

Emergency Contacts for the Public

(as provided by Municipalities - January, 2017)

Chatham-Kent 519-360-1998
After hours non-emergency Police
519-352-1234

Dutton Dunwich 519-762-2748 Roads Dept.
After hours forwarded

Lakeshore 519-728-2488
After hours you will be directed to pager

Leamington 519-322-2346
24 hrs

London 519-661-4570
After hours 519-661-4965

Middlesex Centre 519-666-0190

Southwest Middlesex 519-287-2015
After hours 519-287-2513

Southwold 519-769-2010
Transferred to on call staff

Strathroy-Caradoc 519-245-1070
After hours 519-878-6261 Roads Manager

West Elgin 519-785-0560
After hours forwarded

Personal Flood Emergency Plans

Before the Flood

1. Contact local authorities to find out if your home or business is located in a flood prone area.
2. Learn about your municipality's emergency plan: warnings, evacuation routes and locations for emergency shelters.
3. Keep valuable documents and irreplaceable items in a secure and dry location.
4. Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Ask a relative or friend to be the family contact in case your family is separated during a flood. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and contact number for this individual.
5. Family pets should be relocated ahead of time to a friend or family member located outside of the flood prone area to ensure one less thing to worry about during the event.
6. Post emergency contact numbers at all telephones.
7. Pack an emergency kit that can be accessed easily and carried quickly in case of evacuation. Include any necessary medication, blankets, extra clothing and flashlights.
8. Listen to local radio stations that will carry flood alerts.
9. Have a battery powered radio on hand.
10. Inform local authorities about any special needs i.e. elderly, bedridden or disabled individuals in the residence.
11. Secure or remove lawn furniture.
12. Install a battery powered sump pump which can continue to work in the event that hydro goes out.
13. Keep emergency lighting, sandbags, and gasoline powered pumps ready.
14. Have boots or hip waders on hand.



When the Flood Warning Comes

1. Move pets, livestock, and feed to higher ground.
2. Disconnect and move electric motors.
3. Turn off gas and hydro.
4. Roll up rugs and move furniture to higher levels.
5. Find temporary storage for freezer contents.
6. Store drinking water in closed containers.

During a Flood

1. Do not touch electrical appliances or outlets and do not go into the basement / crawl space as gas build-up or electrical hazards may be present.
2. Do not walk through fast moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
3. If advised to evacuate, move quickly to safety in case the route becomes cut off. Ensure that all family pets are taken out of the area as well if not already relocated ahead of time.
4. Allow flood water into basements to equalize external water pressure on basement walls and floors which otherwise may cause serious structural damage.
5. Extra care should be taken when driving in fast moving or deep water.



After a Flood

1. Read or listen to local media for emergency instructions on seeking aid, medical care and ways in which to help yourself and the community recover.
2. Do not eat food that has come in contact with flood water. Similarly, drugs and medicines that have been in contact with flood water or have lost labels should be disposed of immediately.
3. If water source is from a well, get your well checked and your water tested.
4. Drugs or medicines should be taken to a pharmacy to be destroyed if contaminated by flood waters.
5. Use flashlights to enter dark, flooded buildings – do not use lanterns and candles which could ignite combustibles.
6. All materials should be discarded through municipal solid waste removal where possible or taken to a commercial waste facility.
7. Particular effort should be made to remove all filth that might, in warm weather, serve as a breeding ground for flies or other disease vectors.
8. No attempt should be made to operate any electrical appliances until the wiring in your home or building has been inspected and found safe.
9. Three main hazards exist from domestic or other heating systems following flood damage: explosion, suffocation, and fire. Take every precaution to ensure that the heating system is safe before resuming its use.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

100 Thames Street
Chatham, ON N7L 278
Tel: 519-354-7310 Email: admin@ltvca.ca
Website: www.ltvca.ca
<http://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/flood-forecasting/>