Post Fire Flash Flood season is coming.

Our concern is you and your family.

* Be prepared.
* Pay close attention to the weather.
* Pay attention to local authorities and warnings.
* Remember to keep your keys with you at all times.

Things to remember:

* Search and rescue ends at dusk.
* You may not be the only one that needs rescued.
* It could be several days before help arrives.
* If you have special medical needs make sure the local fire department knows where you live and your needs
* Share your plans with family and neighbors.

A good plan has several well thought out options. A bad plan is “I will stop at the store and get…” Your options should always include a reunification plan for your family. How will you connect with each other?

The best plan is to evacuate if you can safely do so.

Evacuating

Removing you and your love ones from danger by going to the pre-designated safety zone or Red Cross Shelter. If you evacuate to family, friends or a motel, check in with the Red Cross and be counted. In a disaster everyone is looked for until found. Please make it is easy for first responders and check in.

When you leave, plan for the worst and sometimes for a long stay. The number one item people forget is underwear followed by oral hygiene needs. Everything you need to take to a shelter should be ready to grab and go as soon as the weather changes.

Your home may survive, but the road to your home may not.

Check with the rules about bringing pets to shelters. Alternative pet shelters are generally available or will soon become available when the need arises.

*\*Grab and Go: it is packed in a bag and ready to grab at a moment’s notice. Many plans include sweep an armload of bedding off the bed and grabbing the meds on the way out. You have moments, not minutes. Time yourself.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | \*Grab and Go | Have | Updated on | need | NA |
| Medication (3-day supply) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clothing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Emergency/ first aid kit |  |  |  |  |  |
| Children’s needs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Senior care needs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Extra bottled water |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bedding |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pet plan |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cell phone |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alternative cell phone charging source. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Keys |  |  |  |  |  |
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Moving to Higher Ground

A good plan is to leave as early as possible but sometimes it is not feasible. If you are unable to reach a safe shelter be prepared to climb. Plan ahead and pick the spot where you can hunker down. Remember you may need to build a small shelter or have a tent to keep you dry as well as your supplies.

Check List

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | \*Grab and Go | Have in shelter | Updated on | need | NA |
| Cell phone or other communication device |  |  |  |  |  |
| Solar Cell phone charger |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 gallon of water per day per person |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blankets and Raincoat |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shovel |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dry non-perishable foods in rodent and bear proof containers |  |  |  |  |  |
| Daily medications (3-day supply) |  |  |  |  |  |
| First-aid kit  with flares |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dry clothes |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spare shoes |  |  |  |  |  |
| Copies of important documents in waterproof container |  |  |  |  |  |
| Toilet paper in a waterproof container |  |  |  |  |  |
| Matches, kindling, or camp stove. Something to get you dry and warm |  |  |  |  |  |
| Flashlight/extra batteries or gas lanterns, solar flashlights |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hand crank radio, or battery operated with extra batteries |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eating utensils, plates and cups, can opener |  |  |  |  |  |
| Paper towels, hand sanitizer and personal hygiene supplies |  |  |  |  |  |
| Game, book, something to pass the time. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pet plan |  |  |  |  |  |
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Sheltering in Place

If you are able to safely stay in your home or a friend’s home, plan to go to the upper level or attic. Prepare for all utilities to be unusable: no clean water, sewage backup, no electric, gas, phones or internet service. Shut utilities off: main outside breaker(s) off, turn gas off. Remember if you are sheltering other people or going to a friend’s house, the house needs to be prepared for extra people.

*\*Grab and Go: it is packed in a bag and ready to grab at a moment’s notice. Many plans include sweep an armload of bedding off the bed and grabbing the meds on the way out. You may have moments, not minutes. Time yourself*.

*\*Alternative toilet. Compost toilet, bed pan, chamber pot, because unless you have a backflow valve the sewer most likely will back up into your house.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | \*Grab and Go | Have in Upper Level | Updated on | Need | NA |
| Medications (3-day supply) |  |  |  |  |  |
| \*Alternative toilet |  |  |  |  |  |
| Toilet paper in a waterproof container |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water: 1 gallon per person, per day |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dry non-perishable food |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blankets |  |  |  |  |  |
| Source of heat, lantern, etc. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cell phone |  |  |  |  |  |
| Solar cell phone charger |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dry clothing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Documents in a waterproof container |  |  |  |  |  |
| Escape plan and the tools in case the water gets to high or debris blocks your exit. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eating utensils, plates and cups. Can opener |  |  |  |  |  |
| Paper towels, hand sanitizer and personal hygiene supplies |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pet plan |  |  |  |  |  |
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Resiliency Plan

A good resiliency plan will give you the capacity to recover quickly from personal difficulties, hardships and natural disasters.

Things to remember:

* The better prepared you are for the worst scenario the easier your recovery will be.
* Your home may survive but the road to your home has a slimmer change of survival. Prepare for this scenario as well.
* There are different levels of resiliency. Its all about how easily the new normal is adjusted to, how smoothly you weather the many steps it takes to return home and go to work or how fast you can open back up your business.
* Preparation is the key. Below are a few items that will make it easier to know ahead of time.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Have | Updated  on | Need | Agency helper | NA |
| Flood  Insurance *1* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Important papers stored in a safe place*2* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Change your parking habits*3* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Create a Pet Plan 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Move important items to the highest level of your house |  |  |  |  |  |
| Read about flood waters, ignorance is not bliss, its deadly. *4* |  |  |  | CDC/ state and local health departments |  |
| Know what to keep and what to toss (plastic food containers can not be cleaned of contaminates) *5* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Build a sandbag deflection wall *6* |  |  |  | NRCS |  |
| Take inventory of your house contents with photos |  |  |  |  |  |
| Paint the interior of your basement and lower level with a latex paint |  |  |  |  |  |

1. *Purchase flood insurance if not now, do it while the fire is burning. Many fires are extinguished by rain followed by flooding. It can take up to 30 days for flood insurance to go into effect. 20% or more of flood claims are in low to moderate risk areas. Water originating from outside the structure is not covered by homeowner’s insurance.*
2. *This first site has a thorough printable checklist the second site is where to retrieve certain lost documents* [*https://www.fdic.gov/news/conferences/affordable/hcachecklist.pdf*](https://www.fdic.gov/news/conferences/affordable/hcachecklist.pdf)[*https://www.usa.gov/replace-vital-documents*](https://www.usa.gov/replace-vital-documents)
3. *Park your car in a manner that you do not have to expend the time to back out. Have a full tank of gas.*
4. *Flood waters can be contaminated, sewage, old needles are some examples.* [*https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/floodsafety.html*](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/floodsafety.html)

1. *<https://www.nj.gov/health/er/documents/hurricane-readiness/cleaning_mold_removal.pdf> Don’t follow sites that say how to clean plastic, toss them out, better safe than sorry.*
2. *Angle the water and debris away from your home. You cannot save your home by sacrificing your neighbor, work together* [*https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/sandbag-guide.pdf*](https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/sandbag-guide.pdf)