



Be Winter Wise

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Emergency Preparedness—Month 11 WINTER WEATHER AND FLOOD PREAREDNESS



BEFORE THE STORM

- Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- Check your homeowner's or renters insurance for flood insurance coverage—if none exists, purchase.
- Store supplies at work, home and car in handy locations:
 - ⇒ First-aid kit and essential medicines
 - ⇒ Food (packaged, dried, canned or food for special diets.
 - ⇒ Non-electric can opener.
 - ⇒ Keep some cash on hand. ATM machines may not be working.
 - ⇒ Portable radio, flashlights and extra batteries (stored in a water-tight plastic bag.)
 - ⇒ Store drinking water in closed, clean containers in case water service is interrupted. Allow one gallon of water per person per pay for at least three days. (Don't forget about your pets too.)
- Keep your car fueled. If electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate.
- Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.
- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.



DURING THE STORM

- Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding
- Do not try to cross a slowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.
- Do not try to drive over a flooded road. This may cause you to be both stranded and trapped.
- If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek high ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.
- Do not "sightsee" in flooded areas. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
- Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination.
- Use the telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report information instructions from local authorities.
- If flooding is likely, and time permits move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water. Establish at out-of-state "family contact" so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.
- Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances, and if advised by your local utility, shut off electric circuits at the fuse panel and gas service at the meter.





AFTER THE STORM

- DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Rely on utility crews.
- Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.
- Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil water before drinking.
- Avoid disaster areas; your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations and you may be in danger.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment of appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.
- Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police (542-6100) or fire department (Station #1 542-6161 Station #2 542-6162 Station #3 542-6163.)
- Use flashlights, not lanterns, matches or candles— to examine buildings; flammables may be inside.
- Stay tuned to radio, television or the City's website (www.cityofslt.us) for information and instructions from local authorities.



EMERGENCY ALERTS

Receive Emergency Alerts via cell phone or e-mail.

SIGN UP TODAY!

www.cityofslt.us/signup



WATCHES & WARNINGS: What to do

When a flood WATCH is issued:

- Move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank in the event an evacuation order is issued.

When a flood WARNING is issued:

- Tune in for information and advice to local radio and TV stations.
- When told to evacuate, do so as quickly as possible.

When a flash flood WATCH is issued:

- Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moments notice.

When a flash flood WARNING is issued:

- If you believe flash flooding has begun, evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape.
- Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades. These are placed to keep you out of harm's way.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.



City of South Lake Tahoe Emergency Preparation

As part of the City's initiative to increase communications, we are offering a 12 part monthly series highlighting emergency preparedness. Use these tools to prepare yourself for an emergency event. www.cityofslt.us/emergency