

FLOODS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FACT SHEET

Several factors contribute to flooding. Two key elements are rainfall intensity and duration. Intensity is the rate of the rainfall, and duration is the length of time that the rainfall lasts.

Protect Yourself

- Determine the flood risk in your area.
- Prepare your family—develop a flood evacuation plan.
- Consider flood insurance.

Protect Your Property

- Build with flooding in mind.
- Protect important papers and equipment

What to do Before a Flood

- Use an NOAA Weather Radio to listen continuously to a local radio or television station.
- Be ready to evacuate immediately.
 - ⇒ Bring outdoor belongings indoors.
 - ⇒ Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors on your home.
 - ⇒ Keep your disaster supply kit near.
- Follow authorities' instructions.
 - ⇒ Follow recommended evacuation routes.
 - ⇒ Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads.
 - ⇒ If you evacuate, take your animals with you.
- Save lives, not belongings.

What to do During a Flood or Flash Flood

If you are outside:

- Climb to high ground.
- Stay out of areas subject to flooding.
- Get away from standing, flowing, or rising water.

If you are driving:

- Avoid already flooded areas, or areas prone to flooding.
- Stay away from underpasses.
- Abandon your vehicle immediately and



climb to higher ground if your vehicle becomes surrounded by water or the engine stalls.

What to do After a Flood

- Help yourself and then help others.
- Stay away from damaged areas.
- Avoid drinking water or eating food that may have become contaminated during the flood.

Avert the Dangers of a Flood

- Listen for and respond to watches and warnings.
 - ⇒ A **flood watch** means a flood is possible in your area.
 - ⇒ A **flood warning** means flooding is already occurring or will occur in your areas very soon.
- If advised to evacuate or if you think you are in danger, leave immediately.
- Prepare your home if you have time.

For more information, contact CCHD's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program at 452-0881 x310 or visit www.cchdmt.org or www.cdc.gov.