

Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Floods and Flash Floods

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States can experience some degree of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws. Most floods develop slowly over a period of days. Flash floods, however, are like walls of water that develop in a matter of minutes. Flash floods can be caused by intense storms or a dam failure. Your business should have a written plan for responding to floods and flash floods. Consider the following when developing your plans:

	Yes	No	N/A
Have you asked your local emergency management office whether your facility is located in a flood plain?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you learned the elevation of your facility in relation to streams, rivers, and dams, as well as the history of flooding in your area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you reviewed the community's emergency plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you learned the community's evacuation routes, as well as where to find higher ground in case of a flood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you established warning and evacuation procedures for the facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you made plans for assisting employees who may need transportation in an emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you inspected your facility for areas that may be subject to flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you developed records retention and back-up programs to ensure vital business records and computer data are not lost during a storm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you prepared to move your records, computers, and other items to a protected place within your facility or to another location in the event of an emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you purchased a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery backup to listen for flood watches and warnings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you asked your insurance carrier for information about floods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered the need for damming and diking supplies, such as sand bags, to protect the property from floodwaters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered the need for backup systems, such as alternate power sources (e.g., generators or gasoline-powered pumps), and battery-powered emergency lighting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered the need for portable and fixed sump pumps to remove floodwater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you participating in community flood control projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you developed a plan and provided resources to document damage to property, including taking photographs or video?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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