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Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA

518 AM EDT Mon Mar 11 2024

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 11 through March 15 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Nearly every day, flooding happens somewhere in the United States or its territories. Flooding can occur in any of the fifty states or U.S. territories at any time of the year. It causes more damage in the United States than any other weather related event. On average, floods cause eight billion dollars in damages and eighty nine fatalities annually. More than half of these deaths are the result of driving into flood waters.

Being prepared and knowing how to stay safe will help you and your loved ones survive a flood. Stay safe during a flood by being prepared in advance. Flooding is one of the leading causes of weather related fatalities in the U.S. On average, flooding claims nearly 90 lives each year. More than half of these deaths occur in motor vehicles when people attempt to drive through flooded roadways. This happens because people underestimate the force and power of water, especially when it is moving.

Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry off an adult. Twelve inches of water can float a small car. If that water is moving, it can carry that car away. Eighteen to twenty-four inches of flowing water can carry away most vehicles, including large SUVs. It is impossible to tell the exact depth of water covering a roadway or the condition of the road below the water. This is especially true at night when your vision is more limited. It is never safe to drive or walk through flood waters. Any time you come to a flooded road, walkway, or path, follow this simple rule: Turn Around Don't Drown. For more information and flood safety tips, visit www.weather.gov/floodsafety

Know what to do before, during and after a flood.

Visit www.weather.gov/floodsafety

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
656 AM EDT Tue Mar 12 2024

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 11 through March 15 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

It's vital to your safety to know the difference. Watch - Get Ready! A Watch is issued when a specific weather hazard is possible. For example, if conditions are such that flooding may occur, a watch will be issued. Flooding is not yet occurring when a watch is issued. This gives you time to get prepared. If your home is in a low lying area, you can prepare for the possibility of flood waters impacting the structure. You can also plan alternate routes for getting to home, work or school if you know certain roads you usually take could be covered by water. The Watch also gives you a chance to test your communications plan and alert family and friends to the threat of dangerous weather.

Warning - Take Action! A Warning is issued when a specific weather hazard is currently occurring or will be occurring very soon. If a Flood or Flash Flood Warning is issued and you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. Follow evacuation orders if they are issued. If you encounter a roadway that is covered in water, do NOT enter the water! Turn Around Don't Drown! It is never safe to drive or walk through flood waters.

For more information and flood safety tips visit this web site:
www.weather.gov/floodsafety.

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Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA

1039 AM EDT Wed Mar 13 2024

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 11 through March 15 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

Sometimes floods develop slowly and forecasters can anticipate where a flood will happen days or weeks before it occurs. Oftentimes flash floods can occur within minutes and sometimes without any sign of rain. Being prepared can save your life and give you peace of mind.

Create a Communications Plan

It is important to be able to communicate with your family and friends in the event of a disaster. Whether it is having a specific person identified to contact for status updates or a safe location to meet up with family members, having a plan in place will give you peace of mind if disaster does strike.

Assemble an Emergency Kit

It is good practice to have enough food, water and medicine on hand at all times to last you at least 3 days in the case of an emergency. Water service may be interrupted or unsafe to drink and food requiring little cooking and no refrigeration may be needed if electric power is interrupted. You should also have batteries, blankets, flashlights, first aid kit, rubber boots, rubber gloves, and a NOAA Weather Radio or other battery operated radio easily available.

Know Your Risk

Is your home, business or school in a floodplain? Where is water likely to collect on the roadways you most often travel? What is the fastest way to get to higher ground?

Knowing the answers to these questions ahead of time can save your life.

Sign Up for Notifications

The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service provides RSS feeds for observed forecast and alert river conditions to help keep the public informed about local water conditions

Prepare Your Home

Sometimes floods develop slowly and forecasters can anticipate where a flood will happen days or weeks before it occurs. Oftentimes flash floods can occur within minutes and sometimes without any sign of rain. Being prepared can save your life and give you peace of mind.

1. If you have access to sandbags or other materials, use them to protect your home from flood waters if you have sufficient time to do so. Filling sandbags can take more time than you may think.
2. Have a professional install check-valves in plumbing to prevent flood waters from backing up into the drains of your home. Make sure your sump pump is working and consider having a backup. Make sure your electric circuit breakers, or fuses, are clearly marked for each area of your home.
3. Since standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, ensure coverage by contacting your insurance company or agent to purchase flood insurance. This must be done before there is even a threat of flooding as insurance companies stop issuing policies if there is a threat of flooding. (i.e. an approaching hurricane). Many flood insurance policies take at least 30 days to go into effect so even if you can buy it as a storm is approaching, it may not protect your investment.

Prepare your Family/Pets

You may be evacuated, so pack in advance. Don't wait until the last moment to gather the essentials for yourself, your family and/or your pets.

Charge Your Essential Electronics

Make sure your cell phone and portable radios are all charged in case you lose power or need to evacuate. Also make sure you have back-up batteries on hand.

Leave

If it is likely your home will flood, don't wait to be ordered to leave; evacuate yourself! Make alternative plans for a place to stay. If you have pets, take them with you or make arrangements to board them at a facility well away from the flooding danger.

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
713 AM EDT Thu Mar 14 2024

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 11 through March 15 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

During a flood, water levels and the rate the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television outlets. Avoid flood waters at all costs and evacuate immediately when water starts to rise. Don't wait until it's too late!

Stay Informed: Listen to radio and television, including NOAA Weather Radio if possible, check the Internet and social media for information and updates.

Get to Higher Ground: If you live in a flood prone area or are camping in a low lying area, get to higher ground immediately.

Obey Evacuation Orders: If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Lock your home when you leave. If you have time, disconnect utilities and appliances.

Practice Electrical Safety: Don't go into a basement, or any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged. If you see sparks or hear buzzing, crackling, snapping or popping noises--get out! Stay out of water that may have electricity in it!

Avoid Flood Waters: Don't walk through flood waters.

It only takes 6 inches of moving water to knock you off your feet. If you are trapped by moving water, move to the highest possible point and call 911 if possible. Do NOT drive into flooded roadways or around a barricade; Turn Around, Don't Drown! Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide hazards such as sharp objects, washed out road surfaces, electrical wires, chemicals, etc. A vehicle caught in swiftly moving water can be swept away in seconds 12 inches of water can float a car or small SUV, 18 inches of water can carry away large vehicles.

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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA
649 AM EDT Fri Mar 15 2024

The National Weather Service (NWS) Boston, MA has declared March 11 through March 15 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Each day during the awareness week will feature information about a different flood related topic.

When flood waters recede, the damage left behind can be devastating and present many dangers. Images of flood destruction depict destroyed homes and buildings, damaged possessions, and decimated roadways. However, what you can't see can be just as dangerous. Floodwaters often become contaminated with sewage or chemicals. Gas leaks and live power lines can be deadly, but are not obvious at first glance.

Stay Informed: Stay tuned to your local news for updated information on road conditions. Ensure water is safe to drink, cook or clean with after a flood. Authorities may ask you to boil water for a while after a flood. Utility companies often have apps to update you on getting service back. Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death after storms when areas are

dealing with power outages. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage. Review generator safety.

Avoid Flood Waters: Standing water hides many dangers including toxins and chemicals. There may be sharp objects under the water or the road could have collapsed. If it is likely your home will flood, don't wait for evacuation order, get out! Talk to friends and family about emergency visits. If you have pets, take them with you or get them somewhere safe.

Avoid Disaster Areas: Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence may hamper rescue and other emergency operations.

Heed Road Closed and Cautionary Signs: Road closure and other cautionary signs are put in place for your safety. Pay attention to them!

Wait for the All Clear: Do not enter a flood damaged home or building until you're given the All Clear by authorities. If you enter a flood damaged building, be extremely careful. Water can cause floors to collapse, ceiling to fall, etc. Make sure the electrical system has been turned off. Have the power company or a qualified electrician fix wires. Contact your insurance agent to discuss property damage. If you have a generator, follow proper safety procedures.

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