



HOW TO BE FLOOD READY



Before the Storm

1. Clear all drains and gutters of debris.
2. Direct downspouts to drain at least 10 feet away from your property.
3. Keep sandbags on hand and put valuables in a safe place, away from flood-prone areas.
4. Inspect your church property for earth movement, erosion, and mudslides.
5. Look for leaning trees or cracks in the soil, sidewalks, or pavements.



When Water Begins to Rise

1. Monitor radio and TV stations or the National Weather Service for updates.
2. Consider canceling church services if flooding is a risk in your area.
3. If the water begins to unexpectedly rise rapidly during the church service, evacuate church members to higher ground, moving to the highest floor level of the building.
4. Be aware of your surroundings and stay away from objects that might shatter due to water pressure, such as glass doors and windows.
5. Emphasize the importance of finding higher ground to church members who may want to turn back and collect personal items.



After the Flood

1. Wait for flood waters to recede before entering rooms or buildings.
2. Check for moisture on walls, floors, carpets, and furniture and immediately remove as much moisture as possible to prevent mold and mildew.
3. Wash your hands often and wear gloves and boots during clean-up to prevent illness.
4. Take photos of any water in the building and save damaged personal property.
5. If your camera has the capability to date/time stamp, use it for claims review.
6. Treat every electrical item with great care, as the circuits might be wet or damp.
7. Move around slowly.
8. If water is still standing, watch for floating objects or electrical equipment that could cause injury.
9. Carry a flashlight as you inspect for damage.
10. Avoid using the toilets and water faucets until you have checked for sewage and water line damage.

This information featured in March 30, 2016 *Solutions*