



# STORM PREPAREDNESS

Standard Operating Procedure

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities  
Water Resources Management Division



## Step 1: Know the Risk

- To get prepared for a storm, you should be aware of the risk specific to your community. Flood risk mapping is available at:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/waterres/flooding/frm/>
- Check local weather forecasts and be on alert for any weather watches or warnings (rainfall, wind, snow, freezing rain): <https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/>
- Flood warning services are provided through the Hurricane Season Flood Alert System (HSFAS) which is based on forecasted precipitation amounts and seeks to provide communities with 72 hr flood warning services.
- The HSFAS is operational during the peak hurricane months of June to December and information is updated daily.
- To find out information about the list of communities for which alerts are currently provided, flood alerts, and water level conditions visit our HSFAS webpage:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/waterres/flooding/hurricane/#system>
- The latest Hurricane Alert (between June 1 and Dec 31) is available at:  
[https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/HSFA/NLflood\\_Report\\_Latest.pdf](https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/HSFA/NLflood_Report_Latest.pdf)
- Current streamflow conditions are updated four times daily and are available at:  
[https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/HSFA/Flow\\_pct\\_NL.pdf](https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/HSFA/Flow_pct_NL.pdf)
- Real-Time streamflow and water quality station conditions are available at:  
[https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/ADRS/v6/Graphs\\_List.asp](https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/ADRS/v6/Graphs_List.asp)



## Step 2: Get Prepared

- Before a severe storm clean gutters, driveway culverts, drains, and downpipes. Objects that can blow around in high winds should be stored inside or tied down.
- Create a 72-hour emergency preparedness plan and emergency kit for you and your family. Ready sufficient food and water to wait out the storm and its possible aftermath. Please see:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/fes/emo/72hourguide.pdf>
- Store any personal belongings in sealed bins and move valuable belongings out of the basement.
- Undertake emergency flood proofing as per page 11 of the flood proofing booklet available at:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/files/waterres-flooding-floodproofing-protect-your-home-against-flooding-.pdf>
- Prepare an evacuation plan to leave the area if required including your route and the location of the nearest emergency shelters. Ensure your vehicle gas tank is full in case of emergency evacuation.
- Check that your generator functions properly and that you have enough fuel for at least 72 hours.
- Ensure any necessary devices are charged before the storm arrives.
- Prepare a safety room. This should be an interior room, without unprotected windows, and contain non-perishable food, drinking water, flash lights, blankets, etc.
- Proper well construction will help protect your private well against contamination from flooding. A licensed well-driller can inspect your well and suggest improvements, e.g. extending your well casing, installing a flood-proof cap with an extended vent, relocating your well, proper grouting of well casing, and sloping around the well.



### Step 3: During Flooding

- In case of flooding call your town or the provincial Emergency Services Division:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/fes/emo/index.html>
- If you are advised by officials to evacuate, do so without any delay. Take your emergency kit with you.
- If an emergency evacuation is not in place, consider safety precautions; do not go in water, avoid driving or walking on roads near water bodies, keep children and pets away from floodwater.
- Stay indoors and avoid windows. Do not leave your home until there is confirmation that the storm has passed.
- Check for updates regularly and remain in contact with friends and family.
- If outdoors, avoid waterways and try to find nearby shelter.
- Avoid flushing the toilet or draining water down the sink if sewer backups may be an issue and there is no back water valve on the sewer service line.



## Step 4: After Flooding

- Avoid using flooded electrical outlets, switch boxes and appliances until they have been checked by a certified professional.
- Identify any health hazards in and around the property and contact the local Environmental Health Officer: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/department/contact/#locations>
- Identify any flood debris in and around the property and contact the local municipal authority if they have any debris management program.
- Check your home and property for damages. Take pictures of any damaged property to file a claim with your insurance company.
- Avoid damaged structures such as damaged buildings, downed power lines, and washed out roads.
- When driving, be aware of road hazards such as damaged roads or debris on roads.
- Do not use tap water for consumptive purposes until you are certain that the water is safe to drink. Check with the city, town or LSD or check for Boil Water Advisories or Non-Consumption Advisories here: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/waterres/quality/drinkingwater/>
- If your drinking water is not safe, follow this advise on Flooding and Public Drinking Water Systems: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/files/waterres-quality-drinkingwater-pdf-mae-flooding-and-drinking-water.pdf>
- If your well water is not safe, follow this advise on Flooding and Water-Well Safety: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccm/files/waterres-quality-drinkingwater-pdf-floodingandwater.pdf>