**Monthly Preparedness Topic**

**FLOOD**

Flooding occurs in Oregon due to our seasonal rainfall, summer fires, melting snow, new development, and levee/dams. All influence how water is absorbed or directed downstream. Areas that have not flooded in the past may flood now due to changes that occurred somewhere else and caused a change in how the ground interacts with the water.

### How to Prepare

- Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit [https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home](https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home) for information.
- Sign up for your community’s warning system.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.
- Develop an emergency preparedness kit.
- Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy.
- Protect your property.
  - Move valuable to higher levels.
  - Declutter drains and gutters.
  - Install check valves.
  - Keep important documents in a waterproof container.

### During a Flood

- Obey evacuation orders and follow local responder orders.
- Listen to local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Turn off the electricity in your home.
- If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, then stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, then seek refuge on the roof.
- If trapped in a building, then go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. Go on the roof only if necessary. Once there, signal for help.

### After a Flood

- Listen to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Clean everything that got wet. Floodwaters may have carried sewage, chemicals, and other hazards into your home.
- Be alert for displaced animals and dangerous debris that may be in your home.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.

### Stay Safe

- Do not walk through flowing water
  - 6 inches of moving water can sweep a person off their feet.
- Do not drive through flooded areas
  - Vehicles can “drown” in water that is too deep and create a rescue situation.
  - Vehicles can float in 12-24 inches of moving water.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Stay away from power and electrical lines.

For more information please visit
[Ready.gov](https://Ready.gov)  [Redcross.org](https://Redcross.org)