

## **When the Flood Comes**

The safety of your family is the most important consideration. Since flood waters can rise very rapidly, you should be prepared to evacuate before the water level reaches your property.

- Keep a battery-powered radio tuned to a local station, and follow all emergency instructions.
- If you're caught in the house by sudden rising water, move to the second floor and, if necessary, to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight, and a portable radio with you. Then wait for help, don't try to swim to safety. Rescue teams will be looking for you.
- When outside the house, remember - floods are deceptive. Try to avoid flooded areas, and don't attempt to walk through floodwaters that are more than knee deep.
- If and only if, time permits . . . there are several precautionary steps that can be taken.
  - Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary.
  - Do not touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area and you are standing on a piece of dry wood while wearing rubber gloves and rubber soled boots or shoes.
  - Move valuable papers, furs, jewelry, clothing, and other contents to upper floors or higher elevations.
  - Fill bathtubs, sinks and jugs with clean water in case regular supplies are contaminated. You can sanitize these items by first rinsing with bleach.
  - Board up windows or protect them with storm shutters or tape to prevent flying glass.
  - Bring outdoor possessions inside the house or tie them down securely. This includes lawn furniture, garbage cans, tools, signs, and other movable objects that might be swept away or hurled about.
- If it is safe to evacuate by car, you should consider doing the following:
  - Stock the car with non perishable foods (like canned goods), a plastic container of water, blankets, first aid kit, flashlights, dry clothing, and any special medication needed by your family.

- Do not drive where water is over the roads. Parts of the roads may already be washed out.
- If your car stalls out in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car (and its occupants) away. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.