

Turn Around, Don't Drown

National Flood Safety Awareness Week: March 16-22, 2014

Flooding is a threat to life and property that can occur in any part of the of the U.S. at any time of year for a variety of reasons, including winter storms, heavy rain, dam breaks, water main breaks, or sewer backups. The St. Louis Region is especially vulnerable to flooding, due to its proximity to the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. According to NOAA, **floods, especially flash floods, kill more people each year than hurricanes, tornadoes, wind storms or lightning.** The All Ready STL Campaign encourages all area residents to mitigate the potentially costly and dangerous effects of flooding with a few simple steps: 1) Make a plan. 2) Make a kit. 3) Be informed.

Turn Around Don't Drown

- As little as six inches of moving water is enough to float a small car and carry it away or sweep a person off their feet.
- Experts advise you not to drive or wade into flood water at all, especially if you cannot see the bottom.
- Water over a road can hide washed-out pavement.
- Flowing water can be deceptively strong, packing a significant punch no one expects.

Flood Hazard Terms



Flood Watch - Flooding is possible. Tune in to a Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.



Flood Warning - Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.



Flash Flood Watch - Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to a Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.



Flash Flood Warning - A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground immediately.

Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice. When a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, follow instructions provided from your Emergency Management Office. People with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, should plan for their unique needs to evacuate. People with mobility impairments should add the following to their emergency kits so they can evacuate:

- Pair of heavy gloves to use while wheeling over glass or debris.
- Extra battery for your motorized wheelchair or scooter, or a manual wheelchair in case power is out.
- Patch kit or can of "seal-in-air product" to repair flat tires.
- Spare cane or walker in case yours is damaged or lost.
- Food, medicine, favorite toy, and other care items for your service animal.

Learn more at how to prepare for and recover from flooding at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/flood>.

