

## **THINGS NOT TO DO DURING A FLOOD**

**DO NOT** drive where floodwaters are overflowing the roads. Parts of the road may be washed out.

**DO NOT** remain in your vehicle if it stalls in a flooded area. Abandon it as soon as possible and seek higher ground. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep vehicles (and its occupants) away, resulting in many deaths.

**DO NOT** attempt to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. You can be swept away by strong currents.

**DO NOT** sight-see or make unnecessary trips. Use the telephone for emergencies and reporting of dangerous conditions only.

**San Joaquin County Public Works, Flood management Division will inspect your property, upon request, and suggest ways to reduce damage during a flood event.**

## **DO I NEED FLOOD INSURANCE?**

Prior to the 1960's, flood insurance was difficult to obtain for home and business owners. Underwriting firms were unwilling to assume the monetary risk on their own. In 1968, the U.S. Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This Program provides flood insurance at a reasonable cost by requiring the local communities to manage flood prone areas appropriately. At this time, almost any enclosed building and its contents can be insured against flood loss, provided the community is a participant in the NFIP.

Historically 20-25% of all flood insurance claims occur outside of Special Flood Hazard Areas. Information is available online at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov), from your insurance agent, or contact 1-888-FLOOD29 for an agent referral in your area.

**There is a 30-day waiting period for most flood insurance policies to take effect.**

**If you have any questions or comments regarding this pamphlet, please call the San Joaquin County Department of Public Works Flood Management Division at (209) 468-3060.**



San Joaquin County Residents  
Guide to Flood Awareness

## **IS MY PROPERTY IN A FLOOD HAZARD AREA?**

Flood hazard areas are located within a 100-year floodplain. A 100-year floodplain is defined as any area that has a 1% chance of flooding in any given year. Smaller scale floods have a greater chance of occurring and pose a threat to the people and property. Larger scale floods also can occur and inundate areas beyond the 100-year floodplain.

Become informed about the flood hazard potential of your property. San Joaquin County Department of Public Works Flood Management Division can, upon request, provide flood zone information, to San Joaquin county residents, as required by Federal Emergency Management Agency. To accelerate the process, please have your San Joaquin County Assessor's Parcel Number available when you contact Flood Management at (209) 468-3060.

**Information provided by San Joaquin County is not an assurance or representation that flooding will or will not occur on your property.**

## **HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A FLOOD?**

Have the following items available at all times:

1. First-aid kit with essential prescriptions
2. Water and non-perishable food (keep in mind special diets)
3. Chlorine bleach (to purify water if necessary)
4. Portable radio, flashlights, extra batteries, and hand-operated can opener.

Know and practice safe routes from your home to a safe meeting place not in the floodplain.

If you live in a frequently flooded area, keep the following materials on hand:

1. Sandbags
2. plywood
3. plastic sheeting
4. lumber

Buy flood insurance.

Keep insurance policies and lists of personal property in a safe place.

Find safe temporary care for pets and animals.

## **WHAT DO I DO DURING THE STORM?**

**DURING AN EMERGENCY, YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES PERSONAL SAFETY IS MORE IMPORTANT**

## **THAN YOUR MOST VALUABLE PROPERTY**

Tune your T.V. to a local station. If power is out, tune your portable radio to a local station.

If you are caught inside a residence by rising waters, move to the second floor, or roof. Take first-aid kit, flashlight, portable radio, batteries and dry clothing with you.

## **DO ONLY IF IT IS SAFE**

Furnish your car with blankets, first-aid kit, flashlights, portable radio, medications, food, water, and chlorine bleach. Then park the car in a flood safe area.

Move valuable items to upper floors, attics or higher elevations.

Bring outdoor assets like lawn furniture, garbage cans, and tools inside or secure them outside.

Fill bathtubs, sinks, jugs with clean water in case normal provisions are contaminated. Sanitize these containers first by rinsing in bleach.

Board up windows or protect them with shutters or tape to prevent the glass from shattering.

Turn off all utilities if evacuation appears necessary. Electricity needs to be turned off at the main power switch. Gas needs to be turned off at the main valve. Water is turned off at the main valve or meter.

Relocate pets and farm animals to areas that are beyond the rising waters. Frightened animals can be injured and killed during severe storms.

Be aware of animals, both domestic and wild, escaping the flood. They are frightened and may be aggressive.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Dept. of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

San Joaquin County [www.sjgov.org](http://www.sjgov.org)

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

National Weather Service [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)