FLOOD SAFETY

Each year the National Weather Service issues hundreds of flood and flash flood warnings. Many of these warnings go unheeded and result in loss of life, injuries or property damage. The National Weather Service working together with its partners, the media and emergency management, or response agencies, are committed to protecting life and property during floods and flash floods. Keep the following in mind…

- **Before the Storm or Flood**
  - Know your flood risks in your area and your evacuation routes.
  - Assemble a disaster kit containing: first aid kit, canned food, bottled water, NOAA weather radio, battery powered flash light, radio and extra batteries.
  - Listen for Flood or Flash Flood Watches meaning flooding is possible. Listen for Flood or Flash Flood Warnings meaning flooding is imminent or occurring.
  - Work with community leaders, businesses, and schools to ensure appropriate safety plans are in place.

- **During the Storm or Flood**
  - Turn around, don't drown. Avoid already flooded areas or fast moving waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. NEVER drive around road signs or barriers placed there for flood dangers.
  - Be aware roadbeds or bridges under water may have been washed away.
  - If the vehicle stalls in water…immediately get out and seek higher ground.
  - Be cautious at night when floodwaters may be difficult to see.
  - Do not camp or park a vehicle along streams, especially during heavy or prolonged rain events.

- **After the Storm or Flood**
  - Seek necessary medical care. Disaster supplies are available at the Red Cross.
  - Do not consume any food in contact with floodwaters. Boil drinking water. Flooded wells should be pumped out.
  - Avoid disaster areas. You may hamper rescue or emergency operations.
  - Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before use.
  - Use flashlights instead of flammable light sources. Gas or other flammables may have been released from flood-damaged containers.
  - Report damaged utilities to appropriate authorities.