



CITY OF BELLEVILLE

FLOOD

INFORMATION PACKAGE

- Preparing for a Flood
- During a Flood
- After a Flood

Important information from the City of Belleville, Belleville Fire Department, Quinte Conservation, Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, Electrical Safety Authority and Government of Canada to ensure your family's safety and well-being in flood conditions.

Flood Information

613-968-6481

After Hours:

613-968-6482

Public Works:

Sand Bag Removal:

613-967-3275

INTRODUCTION

(From: http://quinteconservation.ca/site/images/stories/water/docs/floods_what_to_do.pdf)

Floods are the most frequent natural hazards in Canada, and the most costly in terms of property damage. Floods can occur in any region, in the countryside or in cities. In the past, floods have affected hundreds of thousands of Canadians. They can occur at any time of the year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall, rapid melting of a thick snow pack, ice jams, or more rarely, the failure of a natural or human-made dam.



All Canadian rivers experience flooding at one time or another.

The potential for flood damage is particularly high where there is development on low-lying, flood-prone lands. Flash or sudden flooding, in which warning time is extremely limited, can result from other causes such as hurricanes, violent rainstorms, or the bursting of dams.

Though all levels of government are working to reduce the impact of floods, individuals also play an important role. Everyone has a responsibility to protect their homes and their families. You can greatly lessen the impact of a flood by taking the time to prepare in advance. This involves three basic steps:

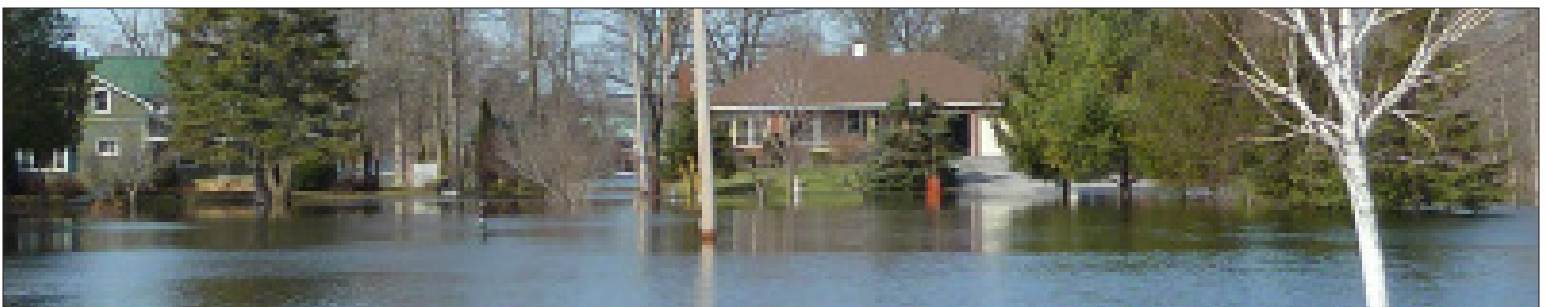
- Find out what to do before, during, and after a flood.
- Make a family emergency plan, so that everyone knows what to do, and where to go in case of an emergency.
- Get an emergency kit, so that you and your family can be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours during a flood.

PREPARING FOR A FLOOD

To get prepared for a flood, you should know the risks specific to your community and your region to help you better prepare. To find out what the hazards are in your region, visit the “Know the Risks” section of the GetPrepared.ca website.

To reduce the likelihood of flood damage

- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground-level doors.
- Install the drainage for downspouts a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure that water moves away from the building.
- Consider installing a sump pump and zero reverse flow valves in basement floor drains.
- Do not store your important documents in the basement. Keep them at a higher level, protected from flood damage.



MAKE A PLAN

https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/Step1MakeAPlan/Step1_make_a_plan.html

In an emergency, your family may not be together, or you may be asked to evacuate your home. Think about what you would do in different situations and prepare a plan with every member of your family is the first step to being prepared.

WHAT YOUR PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE

A Family Communications Plan

During an emergency, it may be easier to reach someone using text messaging or social media or to make a long-distance call than to call someone locally (due to network damage or a jammed system). Discuss with your family which way(s) you will try to get in touch with each other. Identify one or two out-of-town contacts you and your loved ones can call or text message to connect and share information. Be sure they live far enough away so they will not likely be affected by the same emergency.

Contact 1:

Contact 2:

Make sure everyone in your family, as well as your two key contacts, knows how to use text messaging. During emergencies, these messages may often get through even when phone calls may not. Always keep your communications devices fully charged.

Evacuation Plan

In case you are asked to evacuate your home, or even your area, select two safe locations you could go to. One should be nearby, such as a local library or community centre. The other one should be farther away, outside your neighbourhood, in case the emergency affects a large area.

Safe meeting place 1 (near home):

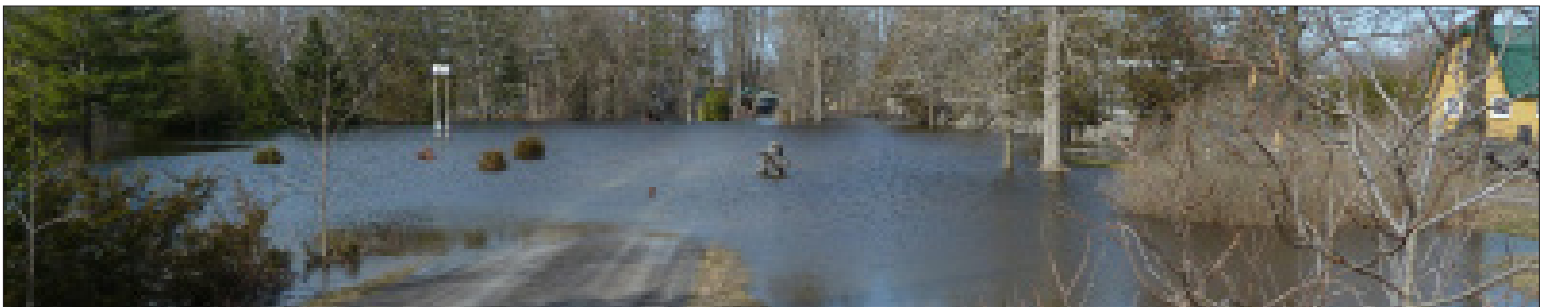
Safe meeting place 2 (outside my neighbourhood):

You should also plan how you would travel to a safe location if evacuation was advised. Have an emergency survival kit ready to take with you (that's Step 2). And if you have pets, think of someone who can take your pet(s) if you have to leave your home. Often, only service animals are allowed at reception centres.

My evacuation route:

Location of my emergency survival kit:

Location and contact information for pet assistance:



MAKE A PLAN (continued)

https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/Step1MakeAPlan/Step1_make_a_plan.html

Review of Safety in Your Home

Evacuation Route

Make sure everyone in your family knows how to safely exit your home—by a main exit and an alternate one. Be sure to consider your living situation. For instance, if you live in a high-rise and have special needs, talk to your building manager or neighbours to make special arrangements, if necessary.

Review of safe exits from home

Emergency Numbers

Keep a listing of emergency numbers at the ready and make sure all members of your family know where they are. Teach children when and how to dial 9-1-1 and other key numbers they may need to call. Here are some numbers you should consider having on this list:

- 9-1-1 (where available)
- Police
- Fire
- Family Doctor
- Telehealth
- Poison control
- Family & friends who can lend support in a crisis
- Insurance contact
- Utility companies

Fire and Other Safety

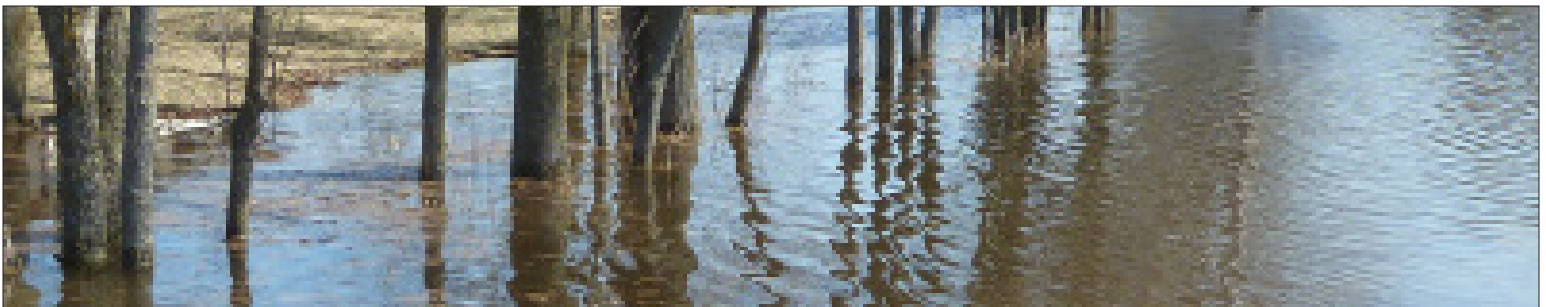
Follow general household safety rules for smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers. More information on how many to have, where to place them, how often to check and replace them can be obtained from your local fire department.

Review of household fire and other safety

Utility Shut-off Procedure

Every adult in your family, as well as older children, should also know how to turn off main utilities - water, electricity, gas. In certain emergencies, authorities will ask that these be turned off for safety reasons. Write out instructions, if needed, and post somewhere visible. Everyone should also know where the floor drain is located and ensure that it is not obstructed, in case of flooding.

Review of directions to turn-off utilities—water valve, electrical panel, gas valve



MAKE A PLAN (continued)

https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/Step1MakeAPlan/Step1_make_a_plan.html

Important Documents

Make copies of important documents (insurance, main identification documents like driver's licence and passport, birth and marriage certificates, wills). Keep with your plan in a safe place. Consider sharing copies with out-of-town family members or keep a set in a safety deposit box.

Packet of important documents

Emergency Planning and Safety Beyond Your Home

Inquire at your workplace, and your child's school or daycare about their emergency plans. Find out about their evacuation plans and how they will contact family in an emergency. Make sure that you keep all relevant contact information up to date at work and at your child's school or daycare, and make sure any people designated to pick up your child are familiar with your emergency plan.

Think of your neighbours. Identify anyone who may need assistance during an emergency and discuss a plan with them and other neighbours. For instance, help them prepare an emergency plan and survival kit, and arrange to check in on that person during an emergency, like a power outage.

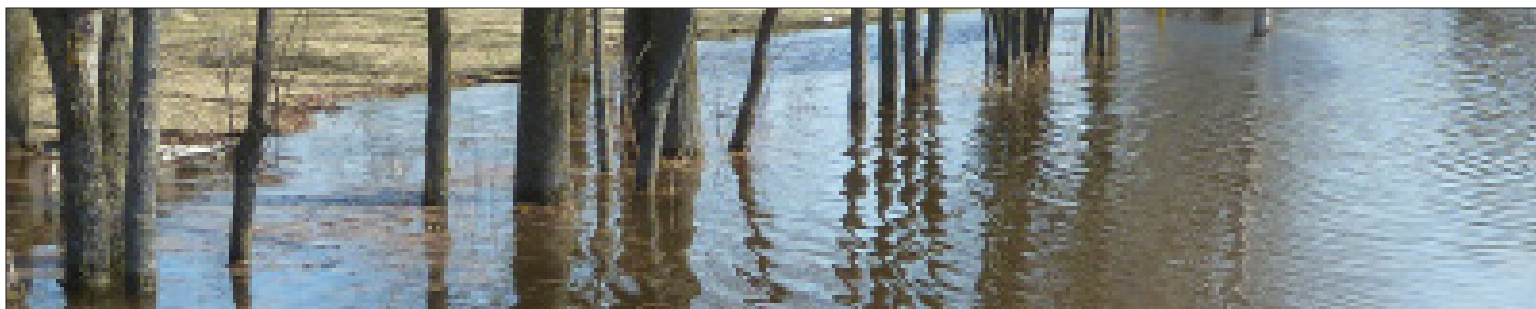
Planning for Special Needs

If you or anyone in your family has special needs, be sure your plan reflects them. For instance, for someone with special medical needs or a medical condition, you may want to include in your plan a medical history, copies of prescriptions, information for key health-care contacts. Your emergency kit should also contain extra medications and supplies. You may not have access to conveniences, such as pharmacies, immediately after an emergency has occurred. It is also a good idea to teach others about any special needs, such as how to use medical equipment or administer medicine.

To learn more about emergency planning for disability and special needs, consult: <https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/diversegroups/PeoplewithDisabilities/PeoplewithDisabilities.html>.

When Your Plan Is Ready

- Discuss your plan with other family and friends so they know what you would do in an emergency.
- Keep your plan in an easy to reach location. A good place is with your emergency kit. Make sure everyone in your family knows where to find it.
- Once a year, review your plan with the entire family. Update it to reflect any changes you want to make.
- Refresh your survival kit at the same time, with new food, water and other supplies.



Build an Emergency Survival Kit

https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/Step2BuildAKit/Step2_build_a_kit.html

Your emergency survival kit should have everything you and your family would need to be safe and take care of yourselves for at least three days immediately following an emergency.

The following list is broken down into the essentials, items you may need to meet your family's unique needs, and items to have ready in case you have to leave your home.

WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR SURVIVAL KIT

Essentials

- Food (non-perishable and easy-to-prepare items, enough for 3 days) and a manual can opener
- Bottled water (4 litres per person for each day)
- Medication(s)
- Flashlight
- Radio (crank or battery-run)
- Extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Hand sanitizer or moist towelettes
- Important papers (identification, contact lists, copies of prescriptions, etc.)
- Extra car keys and cash
- Whistle (to attract attention, if needed)
- Zip-lock bag (to keep things dry)
- Garbage bags

Special Considerations

- Items for babies and small children—diapers, formula, bottles, baby food, comfort items
- Prescription medication
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Pet food and supplies
- Any other items specific to your family's needs



After a disaster, your home emergency kit will be invaluable. Building a kit doesn't take long and doesn't have to be costly – you'll be glad that you did when disaster strikes.

Build an Emergency Survival Kit (continued)

https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/Step2BuildAKit/Step2_build_a_kit.html

Extra Supplies for Evacuation

Clothes, shoes

Sleeping bags or blankets

Personal items (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, comb, other toiletries)

Playing cards, travel games, other activities for children

OTHER TIPS

- Pack the contents of your kit in an easy-to-carry bag(s) or a case on wheels.
- Store your kit in a place that is easy to reach, and ensure that everyone in your family knows where it is.
- Your kit does not have to be built overnight. Spread your shopping over a few weeks. Purchase a few items every time you go to the store.
- Your water supply is meant to cover what you would drink as well as what you might need for food preparation, hygiene and dishwashing.
- Check and refresh your kit twice a year—when the clocks shift to/from daylight savings time is a good time. Check all expiry dates and replace food and water with a fresh supply. Check batteries and replace as needed.
- Keep your cell phone or mobile device fully charged.



DURING A FLOOD

http://quinteconservation.ca/site/images/stories/water/docs/floods_what_to_do.pdf

- Listen to the radio to find out what areas are affected, what roads are safe, where to go and what to do if the local emergency team asks you to leave your home.
- Keep your emergency kit close at hand, in a portable container such as a duffel bag, backpack, or suitcase with wheels.

IF YOU NEED TO EVACUATE

- Vacate your home when you are advised to do so by local emergency authorities. Ignoring such a warning could jeopardize the safety of your family or those who might eventually have to come to your rescue.
- Take your emergency kit with you.
- Follow the routes specified by officials. Don't take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- Make arrangements for pets.
- Time permitting, leave a note informing others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, leave the note there.

NEVER CROSS A FLOODED AREA

- If you are on foot, fast water could sweep you away.
- If you are in a car, do not drive through flood waters or underpasses. The water may be deeper than it looks and your car could get stuck or swept away by fast water.
- Avoid crossing bridges if the water is high and flowing quickly.
- If you are caught in fast-rising waters and your car stalls, leave it and save yourself and your passengers.





Quinte
CONSERVATION

Sandbagging

What You Need to Know



Sandbagging is a simple and effective way to prevent or reduce flood water damage. It provides a barrier from flood water, protecting your property and home. In this document you will learn more about sandbagging and the safe and proper way to create a sandbag wall.

Quinte Conservation's Role

The province of Ontario delegates the responsibility for flood warning to the Conservation Authorities of Ontario. To fulfill this responsibility Quinte Conservation administers Flood Forecasting and Flood Message systems. Quinte Conservation acts in an advisory capacity only, providing continuous monitoring of flood conditions. Quinte Conservation is not responsible for flood fighting other than in the operation of its own dams. During a flooding situation, Quinte Conservation's office will be staffed appropriately to monitor water levels and weather conditions on a 24-hour basis if required. Quinte Conservation maintains a flood warning system for the watersheds

of the Moira, Napanee and Salmon Rivers as well as all of Prince Edward County and will alert its member municipalities and appropriate agencies regarding potential flood threats. Quinte Conservation's staff monitors watershed conditions carefully all year. They are on duty, ready to alert municipal flood coordinators, the media, the public, police and other agencies of potential danger to lives or property. Quinte Conservation's experienced staff know the watersheds, their flooding history and how they respond under various conditions. Staff members use all the data and tools available in preparing forecasts and warnings.



For more information
www.quinteconservation.ca
(613) 968-3434 or (613) 354-3312

Administration Office
2061 Old Hwy. 2, RR # 2
Belleville, ON
K8N 4Z2

What You Will Need

You can purchase sandbags through your local commercial supply and hardware store. Contact your local municipality to find out if and where sand can be provided or delivered.

- Sandbags
- Plastic Poly (10 foot wide, 6mm Vapour Barrier)
- Supply of Sand
- Pump



About Sandbags

Sandbags are not a permanent flood proofing solution. Treat used sandbags as a contaminated product, due to river water that has possibly picked up septic fluid and contact your local municipality about sandbag removal.

- Sandbags will take a lot of weight, standard plastic bags will NOT work because they cannot take the weight that is required.
- Sandbags biodegrade in the sun therefore you cannot fill them and leave them stock piled for a long period of time.
- It is required that you leave your sandbags empty if you wish to stock pile and fill them only when you need them.

Safety Tips

- Avoid taking part in sandbagging if you have a medical condition that may put you in danger while sandbagging
- Wear personal protective equipment, such as closed toe shoes, gloves, hat, sunscreen, etc.
- Take regular water breaks
- Make sure to lift with your legs to avoid back injuries
- Keep the sandbags below shoulder height and close to the body. Also limit the reach with arms when passing sandbags.
- Use wheel barrow, ATV trailers, or handcarts to help move the sandbags around

Where to Build Sandbag Walls

- Locate your sandbag wall a meter away from your house, taking advantage of any elevation your property may have.
- Don't put sandbags directly against your homes walls, the water will saturate the ground underneath which can create hydraulic pressure applying force to your basement walls.
- Sandbags located too far away from your house takes away from the flood plain, this creates issues for others downstream and upstream.
- Municipal resources should be used to sandbag homes not detached sheds or garages.

How to Build Sandbag Walls

Step One: Pack Sandbags

- Use a overhand, underhand grip on your shovel to put the sand in the bag.
- Make sure to only fill the sandbag 1/2 or 2/3 full (max 40 pounds).
- If you have to transport the sandbags it is a good idea to tie them but if the sandbags are not being transported it is not necessary to tie them.
- If you are not tying the sandbags, fold the access of the bag over to one side, sealing the sand from falling out.



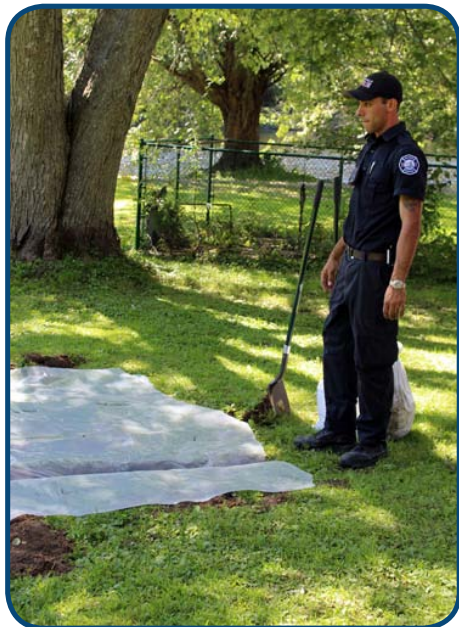
Step Two: Dig a Trench

- Dig a narrow trench as deep and as wide as the sandbags.
- This trench will act as a locking system when the sandbags are placed in it, preventing sandbags from falling over and preventing water from coming under the sandbag wall.



Step Three: Lay the Poly

- Flip the poly all the way out
- Place the poly over top of the trench, making sure that there is half a meter of poly on the backside of the trench (the side facing the house).
- If you have to use more than one sheet of poly you want the plastic to be overlapping in the downstream flow of water.



Step Four: Build the Wall

- Place the sandbags in the trench overtop of the poly.
- Make sure that your sandbag walls are continuous with no gaps or openings
- Pack in the first layer to make sure that it is sealed tightly.
- Walls should be twice as wide as they are tall (e.g. 0.5m tall = 1m wide; 1m tall = 2m wide)
- When stacking the sandbags higher make sure that you are changing the direction of the sandbags for each layer, stacking them in a brick pattern.



Step Five: Finish the Wall

- Once your wall is to the desired height flip the poly on the outside of the wall overtop to the backside of the wall
- Put a series of sandbags on the backside and top of the wall overtop of the poly in order to prevent the poly from falling off.
- You can make your sandbag wall higher if necessary by unwrapping the poly from the wall and adding more sandbags.
- Note: Placing the poly overtop of your sandbags prevents water from coming through the wall.



Step Six: Pump Out Water

- Sandbag walls may still leak no matter how well they are built, so be prepared to pump the dry side of the wall out.
- Find a low spot in the ground behind the sandbag wall where water may pond.
- Dig a small hole and place the strainer and pump in the hole.
- As an alternative you can use a plastic bucket and sump pump. Put holes in a plastic bucket causing it to act as a strainer, placing the bucket with sump pump in the small hole.



Flood Communications

At any time of the year, when there is flooding, Quinte Conservation will issue up to three levels of messages:

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT:

This is a general notice of potential flooding or other conditions that pose a safety risk. There are two kinds of statements:

- A **WATER SAFEY STATEMENT** indicates that high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for users such as anglers, boaters, swimmers, children or pets. Flooding is not expected.
- A **FLOOD OUTLOOK STATEMENT** gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

FLOOD WATCH:

This level notifies that the potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

FLOOD WARNING:

Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with flood conditions. This may include road closures and evacuations.

Where to Find Flooding Information

For up to date water levels and flooding information visit our website,

www.quinteconservation.ca.

Flood Updates

Visit our Webpage, Twitter or Facebook for any updates on flooding.



@quinteca



www.facebook.com/quinteconservation

AFTER A FLOOD

RE-ENTERING YOUR HOME

- Do not return home until authorities have advised that it is safe to do so.
- If the main power switch was not turned off prior to flooding, do not re-enter your home until a qualified electrician has determined it is safe to do so.
- Use extreme caution when returning to your home after a flood.
- Appliances that may have been flooded pose a risk of shock or fire when turned on. Do not use any appliances, heating, pressure, or sewage system until electrical components have been thoroughly cleaned, dried, and inspected by a qualified electrician.
- The main electrical panel must be cleaned, dried, and tested by a qualified electrician to ensure that it is safe.
- Depending on where you live, your municipal or the provincial inspection authority is responsible for the permitting process required before your electric utility can reconnect power to your home.

ENSURE BUILDING SAFETY

- Make sure the building is structurally safe.
- Look for buckled walls or floors.
- Watch for holes in the floor, broken glass and other potentially dangerous debris.

WATER

Flood water can be heavily contaminated with sewage and other pollutants. It can cause sickness and infections. If through colour, odour or taste you suspect that your drinking water has been contaminated, don't drink it.

Household items that have been flood-damaged will have to be discarded according to local regulations.

DOCUMENTATION

- Store all valuable papers that have been damaged in a freezer until needed. (After your cleanup, consult your lawyer to determine whether flood-damaged documents, or just the information in them, must be retained).
- Record details of flood damage by photograph or video, if possible.
- Register the amount of damage to your home with both your insurance agent and local municipality immediately.

DISPOSAL BINS

In the event of a flood disposal bins will be placed in flood affected areas.

THURLOW WASTE DISPOSAL SITE & RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING DEPOT

The Thurlow Waste Disposal Site & Residential Recycling Site at 1320 Mudcat Road is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00AM - 1:00PM.

SANDBAG REMOVAL

During a flood incident please refer to BELLEVILLE.CA for updated information.

Drinking Water Affected By Flooding

After a flood, groundwater sources of drinking water can become contaminated and your drinking water may not be safe to drink or use for cooking and cleaning.

If you have a municipal water supply:

- Listen to and follow public announcements. Local authorities will tell you if your municipal tap water is safe to use and what steps to take if not.

If you have a well or cistern water supply:

- If your well or cistern has been flooded it may be contaminated. Until this water is tested to confirm it is safe to drink use an alternate safe drinking water supply such as bottled water for cooking or preparing food, making baby formula, washing dishes, cleaning, brushing your teeth, washing your hands, making ice, and bathing.
- Boiling water will not remove chemical contaminants. If you suspect or are informed that your water is contaminated with chemicals, use another known safe source of water, such as bottled water and consult with a water treatment specialist.
- Once the flood water has receded, your well and/or cistern will need to be disinfected. Refer to links below for more information.
 - HPEPH website: <http://hpepublichealth.ca/home/emergency-preparedness>
 - Public Safety Canada – Floods – What to Do:
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/flds-wtd/index-eng.aspx>

For more information contact:

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health - Environmental Health
179 North Park Street, Belleville, ON K8P 4P1
T: 613-966-5500 or 1-800-267-2803 ext. 677
F: 613-968-1461 TTY: 711 or 1-800-267-6511

We are committed to providing accessible publications, programs and services to all. For assistance please call 613-966-5500; TTY: 711 or email accessibility@hpeph.ca. For more information, please visit www.hpepublichealth.ca.

August 21, 2017

www.hpepublichealth.ca



City of Belleville

Corporate Services Department

April 9, 2018

Private Property Damage Reporting

To Whom It May Concern:

The Provincial **Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians Program (DRAO)** is designed to assist those affected by natural disasters get back on their feet. It offers financial assistance to help cover emergency expenses and costs to repair or replace essential property.

The program may be activated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs when a sudden, unexpected natural disaster causes costly and widespread damage to eligible private property. Examples of natural disasters for which the program may be activated include floods, tornadoes, landslides and earthquakes.

In Ontario, municipalities are responsible to manage emergencies. If you have experienced damage to your home or other essential property, first take any necessary measures to ensure your safety. Once you are safe:

1. Contact your municipality to report the damage and find out if any local assistance is available. The province depends on information from municipalities when activating DRAO.
2. Contact your private insurance provider to determine your level of coverage.
3. Take photographs to document the damage and keep all receipts.
4. If DRAO is activated in your community, submit a completed application form, along with receipts and other documentation, before the 120-day application deadline.

Additional information and up to date guidelines and forms are available at www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance.

Yours truly,

Matt MacDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

MM/nc

FLOOD SAFETY INFORMATION

There is a heightened risk of electric shock when water makes contact with electrical systems that could seriously injure or kill you. Follow these electrical safety steps; it could save your life, or the lives of first responders and utility personnel working in the area.

Flooding has occurred

- Do not enter your basement if you know or suspect water has risen above the level of electrical outlets, baseboard heaters, furnace or is near your electrical panel. Electricity can move through water or wet flooring and cause a severe electrical shock.
- In the event that flood water has risen above outlets, baseboard heaters or your furnace, covers power cords, or is near the electrical panel, contact your local electric utility immediately and arrange for them to disconnect power to your home.
- Watch out for downed powerlines in flood-affected areas. If you see one, stay back 10 metres or the length of a school bus and call 9-1-1 and your local electric utility to report it.

Evacuation due to flooding

- If you need to leave your home because flooding is imminent and there is no floodwater in your basement:
- Move electrical appliances and devices out of your home or to an area in the house above the expected level of flood water. Do not attempt to use these products if they have been in contact with flood water.
- Watch out for downed powerlines in flood-affected areas. If you see one, stay back 10 metres or the length of a school bus and call 9-1-1 and your local electric utility to report it.

Returning home after a flood

If you have water contact or damage to your electrical system:

- If water in your basement has risen above the electrical outlets, baseboard heaters, furnace or electrical panel, DO NOT enter the basement until the power has been disconnected by the local electric utility.
- If your electrical system has been affected, your utility may not be able to restore power to your property until damage has been assessed and necessary repairs have been made.
- Hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor to evaluate your home's electrical system to determine if it is safe to have the local electric utility restore power to your home. Find a Licensed Electrical Contractor. lec and flooding.
 - The contractor will file for a permit with the ESA so there is a record of the work;
 - When the contractor completes the work, the contractor will notify ESA and the ESA Inspector will confirm work has been done safely and power can be reconnected;
 - ESA will inform the utility that it is safe to reconnect;
 - The utility will reconnect when it is able to do so.
 - Ask the contractor for a copy of the ESA Certificate of Inspection for your records and insurance.

All repair or replacement of electrical wiring and equipment is subject to inspection requirements according to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code; a licensed electrical contractor will look after this. For more information contact Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) at 1-877-ESA-SAFE (372-7233) or visit www.esasafe.com.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Remove dangerous chemicals such as weed killers, insecticides and corrosives to dry areas to reduce the chance of contaminating electrical equipment.

- Shut off electrical power and the gas supply valve to any gas-fired appliance prior to flooding if possible.
- Shut off the electrical supply to all oil-fired equipment. For additional fuel safety tips contact the Technical Standards and Safety Authority at <http://www.tssa.org/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For assistance regarding other aspects of electrical safety or for further information about electrical safety in a flood situation call 1-877-ESA-SAFE or visit www.esasafe.com



HELPFUL CLEANUP HINTS

Maintain good hygiene during flood cleanup. Minimize contact with floodwater or anything that may have been in contact with it. Keep children away from contaminated areas during cleanup operations.

RECOMMENDED FLOOD CLEANUP EQUIPMENT

- Gloves
- Masks and other protective gear
- Pails, mops and squeegees
- Plastic garbage bags
- Unscented detergent
- Large containers for soaking bedding, clothing and linens, and clotheslines to hang them to dry

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Depending on your situation, you may need to rent additional equipment such as extension cords, submersible pumps, wet/dry shop vacuums, a carbon monoxide sensor and dehumidifiers, fans or heaters.
- When using the equipment, keep extension cords out of the water.

WATER

- Remove water from your flooded home slowly. Drain it in stages - about one third of the volume daily - because if the ground is still saturated and water is removed too quickly, the walls or the floor could buckle.
- Use pumps or pails to remove standing water, then a wet/dry shop vacuum to mop up the rest.
- For instructions on how to disinfect and restore wells and cisterns, contact your local or provincial health authorities or emergency management organization.

DIRT AND DEBRIS

- Remove all soaked and dirty materials as well as debris.
- Break out walls and remove drywall, wood panelling and insulation at least 50 centimetres (20 inches) above the high-water line.
- Hose down any dirt sticking to walls and solid-wood furniture then rinse several times.
- Wash and wipe down all surfaces and structures with unscented detergent and water. Rinse.

HEATING AND APPLIANCES

- Do not heat your home to more than 4°C (about 40°F) until all of the water is removed.
- If you use pumps or heaters powered by gasoline, kerosene or propane, buy and install a carbon monoxide sensor. Combustion devices can produce large amounts of lethal carbon monoxide if they're not tuned-up or are improperly ventilated.
- Do not use flooded appliances, electrical outlets, switch boxes or fuse-breaker panels until they have been checked by your local utility.
- Whether you use a wood, gas or electrical heating system, have it thoroughly inspected by a qualified technician before using it again. Replace the furnace blower motor, switches and controls if they have been soaked.
- Flooded forced-air heating ducts and return-duct pans should be either cleaned or replaced.
- Replace filters and insulation inside furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators and freezers if they have been wet. However, it is often cheaper to replace this equipment.

MOULD

- Mould can lead to serious health problems. You may need to have your home professionally cleaned for it to be covered by insurance. Check with your insurance company.
- If you are cleaning up in a room where mould is present, wear a face mask and disposable gloves.
- To minimize mould growth, move items to a cool, dry area within 48 hours and set up fans.
- Alternatively, textiles, furs, paper and books can be frozen until they are treated.
- Wet mould will smear if wiped. Let it dry and then brush it off outdoors.
- You can also kill mould spores by lightly misting the item with isopropanol (rubbing alcohol).

FLOOR DRAINS

- Flush and disinfect floor drains and sump pumps with detergent and water. Scrub them to remove greasy dirt and grime.
- Clean or replace footing drains outside the foundation when they are clogged. Consult a professional for advice or service.