

Flood Precautions: excerpts from the Provincial Emergency Program website
www.pep.bc.ca

Before a Flood:

- Prepare a personal emergency kit for each family member including pets (plan for at least a 3 Day supply of water, food, medication, clothing, eye glasses etc).
- Store important papers, valuables and family mementos in water tight containers.
- Keep a digital file of important documents and photos of house and property for insurance purposes (jump drive that you can take with you).
- Be prepared to leave your home quickly.

Freshet:

- Watch for warning signs: increase in height and intensity of water flows, mudslides, debris in creeks, colour changes in water or leaning trees.
- Banks of rivers and streams may be unstable and dangerous (undercut).
- Consider alternate arrangements for your pets and livestock.
- Check on elderly or disabled neighbours to make sure they are aware.
- Check local media for information.

Rising waters threatening your property – *if there is time* :

- Bring in outdoor furniture
- Move essential items and hazardous materials such as cleaners and pesticides to an upper floor or away from the area
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves
- Unplug electrical items
- Prepare for the possibility to evacuate

If you must evacuate:

- Follow the instructions of local emergency officials
- Take your personal emergency kit and all important papers and documents with you.
- Ensure each family member has waterproof coat and footwear.
- Lock all doors and windows, double check that electricity, water and natural gas are shut off
- Take extra care when driving, familiar roads look different when flooded.
- DO NOT walk through moving water - less than 15 cm (6 inches) is enough to make you fall, go where the water is not moving and watch for tripping hazards.
- Do not drive into flooded areas - you and your vehicle can be quickly swept away.
- In the event of an evacuation, make sure you register at the ESS Reception Centre (evacuation centre) so we can account for all evacuees
- **Check with local authorities for the "All Clear" before you return home; safety inspections may need to be completed.**