**Date: [ENTER DATE]**

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## Flood Safety PSA

## Flooding is one of the most common and costly natural disasters in Massachusetts. Taking a few simple steps now can help protect your health, your home, and your community before, during, and after a flood.

### **1.  Prepare in Advance**

* **Know your risk:** Check FEMA flood maps and your community’s flood-prone zones.
* [**Protect your home**](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/prepare-your-home-for-emergencies)**:** Elevate electrical systems, seal foundation cracks, and install sump pumps or backflow valves.
* **Get insured:** Standard homeowners’ insurance doesn’t cover floods. Consider flood insurance through the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** (note the 30-day waiting period).
* **Make an emergency plan:** Include evacuation routes, family contacts, and a pet care plan. Assemble a kit including medications, important documents, and food & water.

### **2.  When Flood Watches or Warnings Are Issued**

* [**Stay informed**](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts)**:** Use NOAA weather radio, MassAlerts, or local alerts to monitor changing conditions.
* **Be ready to move:** Follow official evacuation instructions—don’t wait for roads to flood.
* **Avoid floodwaters:** Just 6 inches can knock over an adult, and 12 inches can sweep away a vehicle.
* **Protect your essentials:** Move valuables to higher floors, unplug electronics, and secure outdoor furniture.

### **3.  After the Flood**

* **Wait for the all-clear:** Return home only when local officials say it’s safe.
* **Stay safe during cleanup:** Wear gloves, boots, and masks. Watch for gas leaks, downed wires, and mold.
  + Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies including downed power lines and gas leaks.
  + Call 2-1-1 to obtain shelter locations and other disaster information.
  + Never enter a flooded area until the electricity has been disconnected. Contact your local power company or an electrician to disconnect the power
* **Document damage:** Take photos or videos before beginning repairs to support insurance claims.
* **Disinfect thoroughly:** Wear personal protective equipment.Clean hard surfaces with a bleach solution. Discard soaked carpets, furniture, and food.
* **Check your water:** Don’t drink from private wells until they’re tested and cleared for safety.

Resources:

* [Mass.gov Flood Safety Tips](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/flood-safety-tips?_gl=1*1yrptdh*_ga*MTk1ODAyNTcwNi4xNzA0MjI2NDk5*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*czE3NTAxNzIwMDgkbzkkZzAkdDE3NTAxNzIwMDgkajYwJGwwJGgw)
* [Mass.gov Be Informed and Receive Emergency Alerts](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts)
* [Mass.gov Prepare Your Home for Emergencies](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/prepare-your-home-for-emergencies)
* [CDC Floods and Your Safety](https://www.cdc.gov/floods/about/index.html#:~:text=Stay%20safe%20after%20a%20flood,the%20risks%20brought%20by%20floodwater.)
* [FEMA Flood Maps](https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps)