

PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE FLOODING

FLOOD PROOFING YOUR HOME:

If your home is threatened, it is important not only to be prepared for the first line of flooding, but to make as many preparations as possible for the return to normal living once the flood has subsided. If there is time, some of the following tips will help minimize flood damage.

ITEMS TO HAVE IN PLACE AT ALL TIMES:

- **An Emergency Plan** that every household member knows. The plan should include information on how to shut off electrical power and natural gas sources, safe meeting places out of the flood-risk area, an out-of-area contact, plans for pets and livestock, and a neighborhood safety plan that identifies people who may need extra help.
- **An Emergency Supply Kit** containing food, water, necessary medications, flashlights and batteries, personal toiletries, identification for each family member, money and important family documents. **Be prepared to be on your own for at least 72 hours.**
- **Battery-Powered or Wind-Up Radio** that allows you to access weather warnings and disaster instructions from local radio.
- **A Plan for Protecting Your Home** and the tools and items you may need to do so.
- **A Full Tank of Gas** in your vehicle.

PROTECTING YOUR HOME:

- It is good practice to have a **second standby sump pump** available and an **alternate source of power** in the event of power failure.
- Clean out all gutters and drain spouts.
- If your house sits on a concrete slab, consider dry flood proofing the interiors to keep water out. Dry flood proofing involves coating foundation walls in sealants and sealing the foundation-level doors and windows.
- If your house has a basement, wet flood proofing may be structurally safer.
- Make sure any appliances and any storage devices are elevated about flood level

IF A FLOOD IS GOING TO OCCUR IN YOUR AREA TRY AND ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

General:

- Move outdoor furniture inside and relocate any essential personal effects that could be damaged by the flooding or could float and cause damage.
- Buoyant materials should be removed from the basement to lessen the potential for damage to first floor components of the structure should the basement flood.
- Dangerous chemicals such as weed killer, insecticides and corrosives should be removed to dry areas to reduce the dangers of chemical contamination, fire, explosions and personal injuries.
- If time allows, move all vehicles, recreation vehicles, farm equipment and other modes of transportation with gasoline or diesel engines to high ground.

Electrical:

- Be prepared to shut off power if water starts to reach the level of low lying electrical outlets in basement areas.
- If there is enough warning, homeowners should get professional help or advice if planning to move larger appliances. There are established procedures for doing this safely.
- Portable electric appliances such as kitchen blenders and mixers, as well as power tools must be kept dry or not operated until completely dried, cleaned and overhauled.
- TVs and other home electronic systems should be moved above the flood level.

Water & Sewage:

- If your basement sewer becomes plugged, be sure to remove the toilet bowl from any basement bathroom and plug that sewer drain securely.
- Prevent illness by understanding that drinking water may become contaminated. **Listen for boil water advisories.** Have your drinking water tested regularly to ensure it is safe for consumption.

Oil, Natural Gas & Propane:

- An oil tank will float if it isn't full stabilize your oil tank and weight it down with sandbags or wedge it against a solid object.
- Anchor propane tanks. Both full and empty propane tanks will float. Turn off valves.
- Know how to safely shut off your gas. Have the tools to do so on hand so this can be done as you evacuate.

STAY CONNECTED WHILE IN FLOOD PRONE AREAS:

Continue to monitor news sources including the Township of Ramara website www.ramara.ca, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

This will help you stay aware of current situations.

