



“Helping to maintain a healthy community”

## FLOOD SAFETY FACT SHEET

### During a Flood

#### If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- ❖ Listen to the radio or television for information.
- ❖ Be aware that flash flooding can occur and prepare to move to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- ❖ Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

#### If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- ❖ Secure your home. If you have time, move essential items to an upper floor.
- ❖ Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

#### If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- ❖ Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- ❖ Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

#### The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- ❖ Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- ❖ A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- ❖ Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.

### After a Flood

#### The following are guidelines for the period following a flood:

- ❖ Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- ❖ Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- ❖ Avoid moving water.
- ❖ Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- ❖ Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.
- ❖ Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- ❖ Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- ❖ Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- ❖ Get damaged septic tanks, cesspools, and leaching systems services ASAP. These are serious health hazards.
- ❖ Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.