

Before it Rains

Prepare Your Home

- **Determine your risk for flooding.** Contact your city or the water district to determine if your property is at risk. Ask about the history of flooding and the projected flood elevation in your neighborhood. See our Web site at www.heynoah.com.
- **Purchase flood insurance for your home and its contents.** Homeowners' and renters' insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding. Flood insurance may be your only way to recover fully from flood damages. Contact your insurance agent or the **National Flood Insurance Program at 1-888-CALL-FLOOD, extension 100.**



- **Know the name and location of the creek, river or channel nearest your home, and your home's elevation relative to it.**

- **Stockpile emergency building materials** if you live in a flood-prone area, including plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber nails, drywall screws, hammer and saw, pry bar, shovels, and sandbags. Find out where you can get sandbags in your community.
- **Conduct an examination of your property** for flood risks, and make any needed repairs. Seal any cracks in the foundation and exterior walls, use special paints to prevent water from penetrating exterior brick or stucco, and seal small openings around pipes with cement, crack filler or caulk.
- **Consider elevating your main electric panel board** if you live in a flood-prone area (electric fuses or circuit breakers) and all electrical outlets, switches, light sockets, baseboard heaters and wiring, at least one foot above the projected flood elevation for your home.
- **Protect some appliances** by elevating them at least one foot above the projected flood elevation. Use masonry or pressure-treated lumber to elevate your washer and dryer. Use masonry blocks or concrete to elevate your furnace and water heater. Outside air conditioning compressors, heat pumps or package units can be placed on a base of masonry, concrete or pressure-treated lumber.

Top 10 Facts Every Consumer Needs to Know About the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Remember there is a 30-day waiting period for all new flood insurance policies.

1. *Everyone lives in a flood zone. You don't need to live near water to be flooded. Floods are caused by storms, blocked creek channels or storm drains, or water backup due to inadequate or overloaded drainage systems.*
2. *Flood damage is not covered by homeowners' policies. You can protect your home, business, and belongings with flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program. You can insure your home with flood insurance for up to \$250,000 for the building and \$100,000 for your contents.*

Before it Rains

- **Anchor any fuel tanks** securely to the floor. A fuel tank can tip over or float in a flood, causing fuel to spill or catch fire.
- **Install a float plug in any floor drain.** If the floor drain pipe backs up, the float will rise and plug the drain.
- **Install check valves in your home's sewer traps** to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains.
- **Move insurance policies, documents and other valuables to a safe deposit box.** Move valuables, including irreplaceables such as photographs, baby books and family heirlooms, out of the basement or garage and into the upper floors of your home, or to another location where they will be safe from water damage.



- **Put together a kit of emergency supplies for your home, office and car.** Your earthquake kit works for floods too! See the checklist on pages 11-12 for what to include.

Prepare Your Car

- **During heavy rains, keep your gas tank full.** If power is lost during flooding, gas stations may be unable to operate.
- **Keep an emergency kit in your car.** Check the pull-out list on page 11 for items to include.
- **Check tires** for proper air pressure and adequate tread.
- **Replace worn wiper blades.**

3. You can buy flood insurance no matter what your flood risk is. It doesn't matter whether your flood risk is high, medium, or low, you can buy flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance

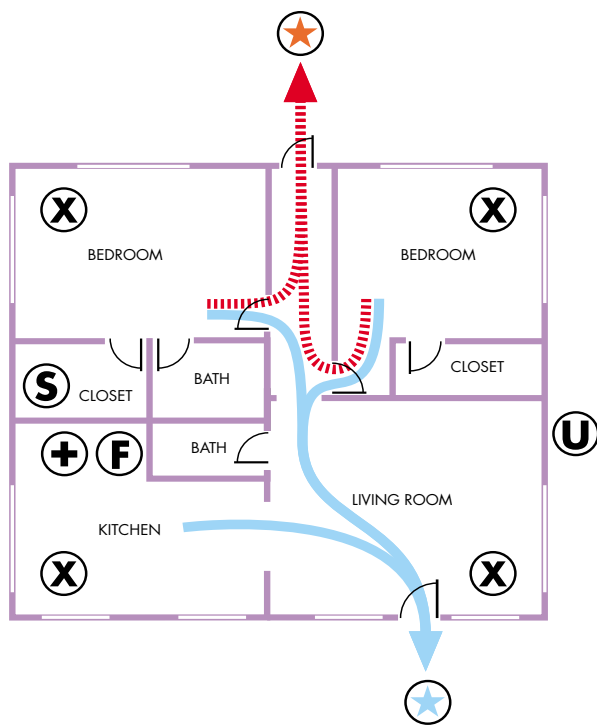
Program. And, it's a good idea to buy even in low- or moderate- risk areas: Almost 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from low- to moderate-risk areas.

4. There is a low-cost policy for homes in low- to moderate-risk areas. The Preferred Risk Policy is available for just over \$100 a year. You can buy up to \$250,000 of coverage for your home and \$60,000 of coverage for your contents.

Before it Rains

Prepare Your Family

- **Meet with your family to develop a family disaster plan.** Explain the dangers of high water and flooding to children, and talk about how to respond to these and other disasters.
- **Plan and practice an evacuation route.** Draw a floor plan and mark two evacuation routes from each room. Kids can help with this!
- **Pick two meeting places.** One right outside your home in case of a sudden nighttime emergency, and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.



- **Make sure your kids know** what to do if they are at school during a flood emergency. Choose several friends they can go home with in case you can't make it to pick them up.
- **Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative** for family members to call if separated during flooding. It's often easier to call long-distance during natural disasters. Make sure everyone in the family, as well as teachers and day-care providers, knows the name and telephone number of this person.
- **Make sure everyone knows safe routes** to high and dry ground.
- **Identify where you could go if told to evacuate.** Choose several places, such as a friend or relative's home in another town, a motel, or a Red Cross shelter.
- **Learn how and when to turn off the gas, electricity and water at the main switches.**



5. Flood insurance is affordable. The average flood insurance policy costs a little more than \$300 a year for about \$100,000 of coverage. In comparison, a disaster home loan can cost you more than \$300 a month for \$50,000 over 20 years.

6. Flood insurance is easy to get. You can buy NFIP flood insurance from private insurance companies and agents; call yours today! You may be able to purchase flood insurance with a credit card.

7. Contents coverage is separate, so renters can insure their belongings too. Up to \$100,000 contents coverage is available for homeowners and renters. Whether you rent or own your home or business, make sure to ask your insurance agent about contents coverage. It is not automatically included with the building coverage.

Before it Rains



- **Teach all family members how and when to dial 9-1-1**, police and the fire department. Teach children how to make long-distance phone calls.
- **Learn which radio and TV stations** to turn to for emergency information.
- **Discuss how you will care for your pets in the event of flooding.** Emergency shelters may not allow animals. Consider tagging pets with identifying information to increase the odds that they will be returned to you if they should escape during a disaster.



8. Up to a total of \$1 million of flood insurance coverage is available for non-residential buildings and contents. Up to \$500,000 of coverage is available for nonresidential buildings. Up to \$500,000 of coverage is available for the contents of nonresidential buildings.

9. There is usually a 30-day waiting period before the coverage goes into effect. Plan ahead so you're not caught without flood insurance when a flood threatens your home or business.

10. Federal disaster assistance is not the answer. Federal disaster assistance is only available if the President declares a disaster. More than 90 percent of all disasters in the United States are not presidentially declared. Flood insurance pays even if a disaster is not declared.

Prepare Your Community

- **Keep neighborhood storm drains and gutters clear of debris.** This will prevent street flooding and also protect area creeks and streams from pollution. Report illegal dumping. See page 14.



- **Participate in volunteer creek clean-up events** to keep area waterways clean and flowing smoothly. The Creek Connections Action Group sponsors two countywide creek cleanups each year; call (408) 265-2600 for information.
- **Make a year-round commitment** to keeping creeks clean and clear by joining the water district's Adopt-a-Creek Program. Call (408) 265-2600 for information.
- **Talk with your neighbors about flood preparedness** in your neighborhood. Check in with elderly neighbors or others with special needs.
- **Get involved with agency task forces and committees** that serve as advisory groups on flood protection needs. Contact your city or the water district for more information.

During a Storm

At Home

- **Tune to local radio or television** for emergency information and instructions from local authorities.
- **Move outdoor belongings** such as patio furniture to indoor storage.
- **Use large corks or stoppers** to plug showers, tubs and basins to prevent floodwaters from backing up in sewer drains.
- **Use sandbags to protect your home** from damage by floodwaters. Call 1-888-HEY-NOAH for locations nearest you.

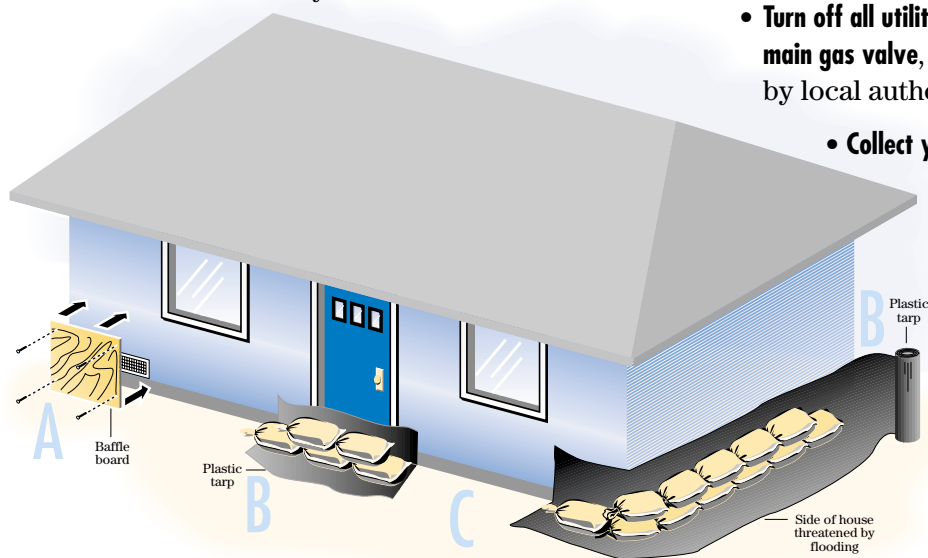


To turn off the gas, locate the main shut-off valve next to the gas meter. Using a wrench, give the valve a one-quarter turn in either direction so that it is crosswise to the pipe. Turn off electricity by turning off the switch located at the electric main panel. Never replace a fuse or touch a circuit breaker with wet hands or while standing in water.

- **Use the telephone only for emergency needs** or to report dangerous conditions.
- **Avoid unnecessary laundry** and other indoor water use.
- **Turn off all utilities at the main switch and close the main gas valve**, if you are instructed to do so by local authorities.

- **Collect your emergency supplies.**

See pages 11-12 to make your own kit.



Baffle boards consist of 3/4 inch plywood sheets with a soft gasket material like felt or foam rubber. They are effective for closing off vents, low windows and doors from floodwater. If placed over vents, however, baffle boards must be removed once the danger of flooding passes.

Using **plastic tarp** between a structure and sandbags helps keep floodwater from seeping between the house siding and foundation sills.

Care should be taken to place **sandbags** tightly against one another. Complete each layer before starting the next layer. Limit placement to two layers unless a building is used as a backing or sandbags are stacked in a pyramid, or half pyramid, fashion.

Lay plastic tarp on the ground and up the side of buildings (as shown) at least one foot above the expected water elevation and far enough out on the ground to underlay a half pyramid of sandbags.

After placing the first layer of sandbags, stagger the second and subsequent layers of bags, much like the pattern of bricks in a wall.

What Do the Warnings Mean? Flooding can occur when prolonged rainfall over several days causes a river or stream to overflow and flood the surrounding area. Flash flooding can occur after

intense rainfall of one inch or more an hour or in extreme cases when a dam or levee breaks. Flash floods often give very little warning, developing in only a few minutes to a few hours.

A flood or flash flood watch means flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area. Stay tuned to local television and radio for updates and advice.

A flood or flash flood warning means flooding or flash flooding is now occurring or will occur very soon in your area. Collect your emergency supplies and be ready to evacuate if told to do so.

During a Storm

If you are instructed to evacuate

- **Evacuation is much simpler and safer before flood waters** become too deep for ordinary vehicles to drive through.
- **Wear protective clothing** and sturdy shoes.
- **Take your emergency supplies kit.**
- **Lock your home.**
- **Use travel routes instructed by local authorities;** don't take shortcuts.

Evacuate immediately!



Out and about

- **If you are outdoors,** climb to high ground and stay there.
- **Avoid walking through any floodwaters.** Swiftly moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- **Never drive through flowing water.** Turn around and go another way. A foot of running water can lift your car, and water two feet deep will sweep away almost any vehicle.
- **If your car stalls in rising water,** abandon it immediately and move to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.
- **Don't sightsee** in areas of flooding or rising water. Don't enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
- **Stay away from all downed power lines.** Don't try to guess if it is an electric line or not; assume all downed lines are dangerous. Stay away from puddles, fences, trees or any other object in contact with a power line, and don't touch leaning power poles or sagging power lines. Don't attempt to free anyone or anything in contact with a power line—call 9-1-1.
- **If a live line is touching your car,** stay in the vehicle and wait for help to arrive. If you must get out, jump clear without touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Shuffle away—don't walk or run.
- **Listen to the radio for traffic updates,** and follow recommended routes, as shortcuts may be blocked.
- **Avoid unnecessary trips.**

After a Flood

Flood danger doesn't end when the water recedes. If your home has been flooded, don't return until the authorities give their okay. Then, use extreme caution.

- **Check for gas leaks.** If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, evacuate the building immediately and call PG&E or your local gas and electric company from a neighbor's home. Always call the gas company to turn the gas back on.
- **Look for electrical system damage.** If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Don't step in water to reach the fuse box or circuit breaker; call PG&E or a local electrician for advice.
- **Don't touch appliances** while the power is on if your home is flooded. Turn off the electricity at the main switch first.
- **Check for sewage and water line damage.** If you smell sewage or have reason to suspect the sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, don't use water from the tap; contact your water company.
- **Make sure your building is not in danger of collapsing.** When entering a building that has been flooded, examine walls, doors, windows and ceilings.
- **Watch out for animals,** especially poisonous snakes, that may have come into your home with the flood waters. Use a stick to poke through debris.
- **Take pictures** of all of the damage to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- **Look for fire hazards** such as broken or leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits, submerged furnaces or electrical appliances, or flammable or explosive materials coming from upstream.
- **Throw away food**—including canned goods that have come into contact with flood waters.
- **Pump out flooded basements gradually**—about one-third of the water per day—to avoid structural damage.
- **Repair damaged septic tanks,** cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are health hazards.
- **Contact the American Red Cross** for a copy of the book *“Repairing Your Flooded Home.”* The Red Cross may also be able to provide you with a voucher to purchase new clothing, groceries, essential medications, bedding and other items to meet emergency needs.
- **Listen to your radio** for information on assistance that may be provided by state and local agencies and other relief organizations.
- **Used sandbags can be returned** to the sites where they were obtained, or the sand can be added to gardens. Don't dump sandbags in the garbage or in creeks and streams.



Emergency Supplies Kit

Prepare a kit of supplies that you can access if you are required to leave your home on a moment's notice. Pack the kit in easy-to-carry containers such as duffel bags, a backpack, a trash can with a lid or sturdy plastic storage containers. Store the kit in a high, dry place and make sure everyone knows where it is. Check the supplies at least once a year to replace batteries, update clothing and rotate food supplies.

Water

Store water in clean plastic containers such as soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. Plan to keep at least three gallons for each member of your family. Change stored water every six months.

number of family members
x 3 gallons =
 gallons of water

date changed

Food

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water.

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- Canned juices, milk and soup
- High-energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
- Vitamins
- Any special foods for infants or elderly family members
- Comfort foods: cookies, hard candy, instant coffee, tea bags, sweetened cereals
- Non-electric can-opener



- Camping mess kits or paper plates, cups and plastic utensils
- Liquid detergent, plastic containers
- Aluminum foil, paper towels
- Non-perishable food for pets



date changed

First aid kit

Be sure to include prescription medications for any family members.

- Adhesive bandages, various sizes
- Sterile gauze pads, various sizes
- Adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Sterile roller bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moist wipes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Petroleum jelly
- Safety pins, assorted sizes
- Soap/cleansing agent



- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Syrup of ipecac**
- Activated charcoal**

**Use only when advised by Poison Control Center

Emergency Supplies Kit

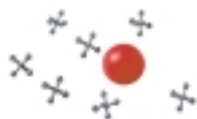
Tools and supplies

- Battery-powered radio
- Battery-powered flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Wrench to turn off utilities
- Utility knife
- Matches
- Plastic garbage bags, ties
- Household bleach
- Paper and pencil



Clothing and personal items

- A change of clothing, sturdy shoes and rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Credit cards and cash (ATM machines may not be working in a power outage)
- Extra set of car keys
- Toiletry and personal hygiene items
- Toilet paper
- Extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and supplies
- Special supplies for infants (diapers, bottles, etc.)
- Special supplies for elderly or disabled family members (denture needs, insulin, other medications)
- Books, toys, entertainment items
- Comfort items for children



Emergency car kit

Keep these items in the trunk of your car.

- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Blanket
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher (5 lb. A-B-C type)
- First aid kit and manual
- Bottled water and non-perishable high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter
- Maps, shovel, flares
- Tire repair kit and pump



Water in an emergency

If a disaster catches you without a supply of clean drinking water, you can use the water in your hot-water tank, pipes and melted ice cubes. As a last resort, you can use the water in the reservoir tank of your toilet (not the bowl).

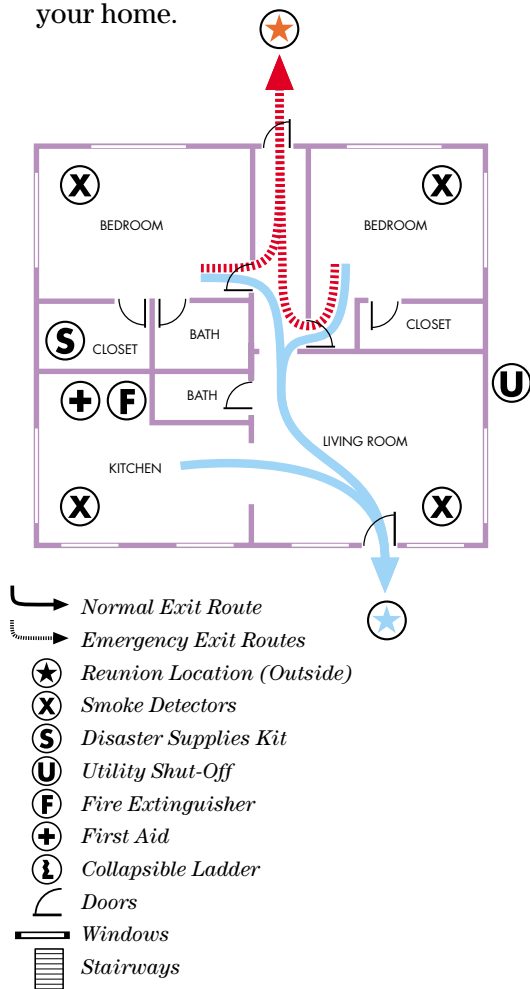
In an emergency, contaminated water can be purified in several ways. Boil it for 3-5 minutes, or add 16 drops of household bleach per gallon, stir, and let stand for 30 minutes, or distill it by collecting the vapor from above a pot of boiling water.



Our Escape Plan

Escape Plan

- Use this space to chart a floor plan of your residence. Show the location of doors, windows, stairways and large furniture. Mark the location of your emergency supplies kit, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and utility shut-off points. Then, use a colored pen to mark at least two escape routes from each room. Finally, mark the meeting spot outside your home.



Floor One

Floor Two

Family Evacuation Location

Address _____

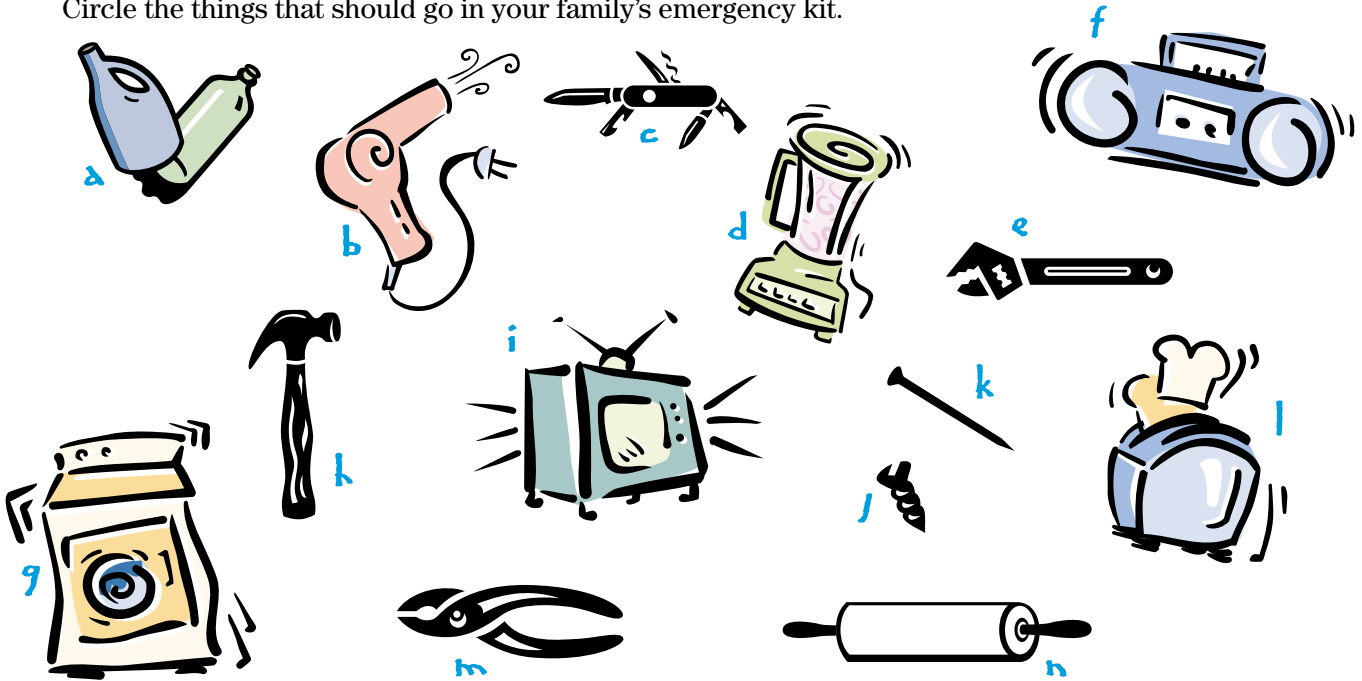
Telephone _____

Route to try first _____

Noah's News for Kids

Show what you know about staying safe by playing along with Noah!

Noah Knows that one of the best ways to stay safe during a flood is to make a kit for emergencies. Circle the things that should go in your family's emergency kit.



Answers: a. Water, c. Knife, e. Wrench, f. Radio, h. Hammer, j. Nail, m. Pliers

Noah Knows that to stay safe, you should never walk or ride your bike through rising water.

Noah Knows that in an emergency, it is sometimes a good idea to call for help. Fill in the lines below and ask your parents to put them by the phone so you will know who to call for help.

My name _____

My phone number _____

My address _____

My town _____

Ambulance, Fire, Police/Sheriff _____

Mother's work _____

Father's work _____

Other _____



Noah Knows that even if a flood happens, lots of grown-ups will work very hard to keep everyone safe, and to return everything to normal afterwards. Color in the pictures of Noah on the next page to see how he stays safe during a flood.

Color, Cut apart and practice your FloodSAFE rules.



**Be FloodSAFE,
Noah knows:
Stay away from
high water flows.**

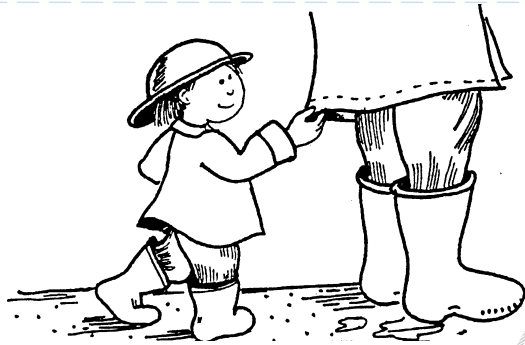
Name

Santa Clara Valley Water District



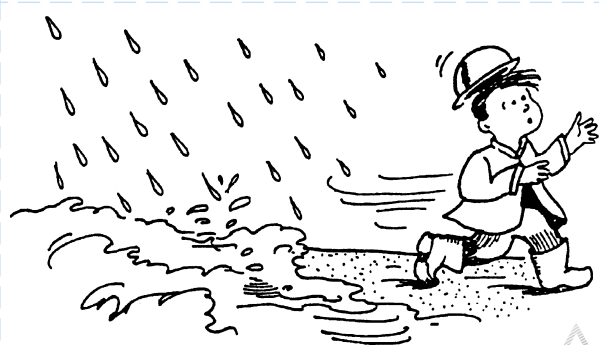
Plan and practice your escape.

1



Find a grown-up to be safe.

2



Do your best to stay dry!

3



Go to a place that's safe and high.

4



Watch where you walk; avoid the flood.

5



Afterwards, clean up the mud.

6



**Take good care of you and me.
Be a FloodSAFE family!**

7

Color, cortar y practica tus FloodSAFE reglas.



Haz un plan para escapar del agua.

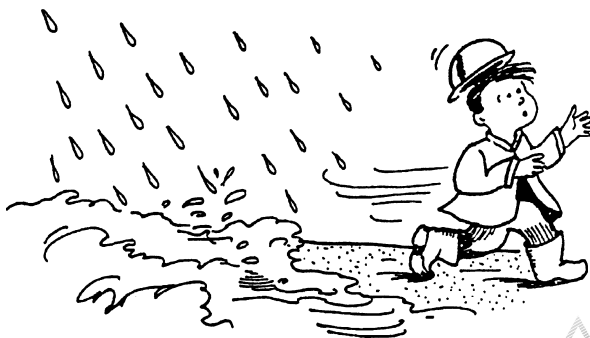
1



Sea FloodSAFE
Noah sabe:
allejese de
agua alta.

Nombre

Santa Clara Valley Water District
El Distrito de Agua Potable
del valle de Santa Clara



Trata de quedarte lejos del agua.

3



Busca a un adulto.

2



Evita las inundaciones. No andes por el agua.

5



Veta a un lugar que sea alto y seco.

4



¡Está sano y salvo antes, durante,
y después de una inundación!

7



Limpia todo lo que la lluvia ensució.

6

Our Family's Emergency Guideline

Use this form as a guideline for preparing your family for the possibility of flooding. Complete all the information then save the form inside your emergency kit, or post it high on a wall where it can be accessed in an emergency.

Out-of-State Contact

Name _____ City _____
Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Local Contact

Name _____ City _____
Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Nearest Relative

Name _____ City _____
Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Family Work Numbers

Name _____ Telephone _____
Name _____ Telephone _____
Name _____ Telephone _____

School/Daycare Numbers

Name _____ Telephone _____
Name _____ Telephone _____
Name _____ Telephone _____

Emergency Telephone Numbers

In a life-threatening emergency, dial 9-1-1 or the local emergency medical services system number.

Police _____ Fire _____
Family Physicians: _____ Hospital _____
Name _____ Telephone _____
Name _____ Telephone _____

Insurance or Health Record Numbers _____

The Santa Clara Valley Water District provides free, filled sandbags at distribution sites scattered throughout the county. The use of sandbags is a simple but effective method of preventing or reducing damage from floodwater or debris.

However, sandbags alone should not be relied on to keep water outside a building. Use baffle boards (plywood sheeting) or sheets of plastic tarp in conjunction with sandbags. To form a sandbag wall, place bags tightly against one another to form the first layer of defense. Stagger the second and subsequent layers of bags, much like the pattern of bricks in a wall.

Sandbags should never be used to build a fortress around the perimeter of one's property. Doing so can actually trap floodwaters between sandbag walls and structures, leading to further damage.



STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

How to make baffle boards to seal foundation vents, windows, doorways and garage doorways:

- Use 3/4" plywood to overlap the window or vent by three or four inches on all sides.
- Use a soft gasket material like felt or foam rubber that is at least 2 inches wide. Attach it with waterproof glue to the 3/4" plywood.
- Use four or more nails, screws or bolts to secure the baffle boards over the opening. In stucco, cement or brick walls, special screws or expansion bolts will be required.
- For doorways, install baffle boards to the outside frame of the door.
- For garage doors, suitable boards one-inch thick may be used instead of plywood for the door seals. The bottom edge of the baffle board should be shaped to fit the driveway surface so there will be a water-tight seal on the bottom. Use baffles to seal door cracks vertical to and higher than the bottom seal.
- In an emergency, fasten sheets of plastic or building (tar) paper over the opening and seal with caulk, putty or clay.

BEFORE FLOODING IS A THREAT

If you believe your home is in danger of being flooded, there are steps you can take in advance of a flood to reduce property damage.

For homes with cement slab floors:

- Use special paints to keep the water from penetrating exterior stucco or brick.
- Patch all cracks in the outside foundation with regular patching mixes.
- Clear dirt away from the bottom of stucco or wood walls and seal the lower exposed edge with caulking compound. Replace the dirt, which will not affect the seal.

For homes with wood floors and crawl spaces:

- Water can leak into crawl spaces and/or basements through foundation cracks, pipe holes, vents, doors or windows. It can also seep between the house siding and foundation sills. Once the crawl space or basement is filled, the water pushes up into the building through floors and wall joints until it reaches the height of the outside floodwaters.
- Seal vents and windows with plywood. Vents are required by building codes to prevent mildew and rot. Therefore, all plywood over vents must be removed as soon as the danger of a flood passes.
- Fill cracks in the foundation or stucco wall with cement or other effective crack-filler material.
- Seal small openings around pipes with cement, crack filler or caulk.
- Seal the joint between siding and foundation with caulk.

WHEN THE RAINY SEASON IS OVER

The Santa Clara Valley Water District recommends that residents and business owners keep sandbags on hand at least through mid-April since significant amounts of rain can visit the valley during late-winter and early-spring storms. Once the threat of flooding is over, however, there are several ways to dispose of sandbags.

Bags provided by the water district are filled with clean, washed sand that can be added to gardens as a soil amendment. Sandbags can also be returned to the sites where the bags were obtained by May 15. The water district asks residents to place used sandbags atop pallets for ease of removal. Sandbags should not be tossed into garbage receptacles because they take up valuable space in landfills.



ONGOING SANDBAG PICKUP LOCATIONS

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1 Palo Alto 1925 Embarcadero Rd, adjacent to Palo Alto Air Terminal</p> | <p>4 San Jose Water District Winfield Warehouse 5905 Winfield Blvd.</p> | <p>7 San Jose 1600 S. 10th St at Phelan, old Beechnut Baby Food Plant</p> |
| <p>2 Mountain View Moffett Blvd. at Hwy 101 and Hwy 85, next to PG&E substation</p> | <p>5 San Jose Water District Headquarters 5750 Almaden Expwy, one block south of Blossom Hill Rd.</p> | <p>8 Morgan Hill El Toro Fire Station, Monterey Hwy at Llagas Ave.</p> |
| <p>3 Campbell Central Fire Department 485 Sunnyoaks</p> | <p>6 San Jose Along Guadalupe River next to 445 Willow Street</p> | <p>9 San Martin County South Yard 13600 Murphy Ave. (M-F and emergencies) (408) 686-0605</p> |

For more information, call the Santa Clara Valley Water District at the numbers below, or check our web site at www.scvwd.dst.ca.us

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sandbag location and use | 1-888-HEY-NOAH (1-888-439-6624) |
| Sandbag disposal | (408) 265-2607 ext. 2459 or 2413 |

Santa Clara Valley Water District 



Winter 1998-99
30k

FloodSAFE

Sandbag Guidelines for Homeowners

Early preparation can help prevent flood damage

La preparación temprana puede ayudar a prevenir el daño de las inundaciones

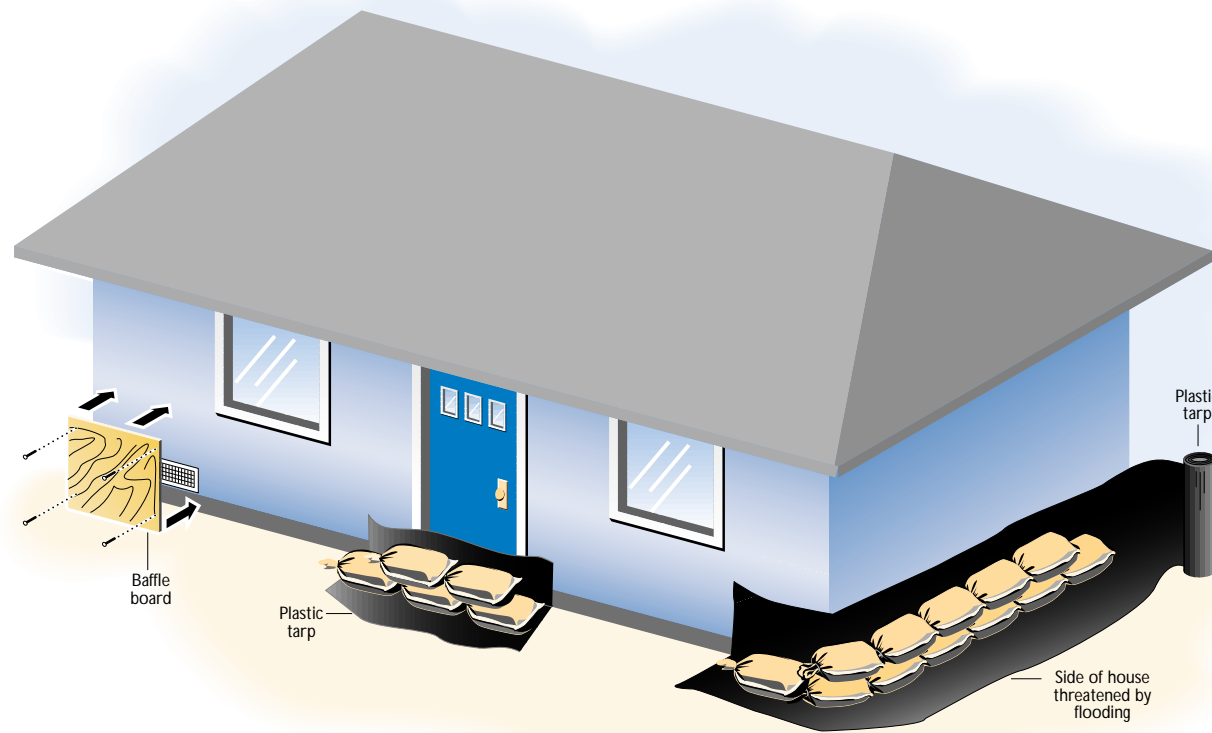
Chuẩn bị sớm có thể ngăn ngừa thiệt hại do lũ lụt



Santa Clara Valley Water District 

Building a last line of defense

Construyendo una última línea de defensa • **Đựng một phòng tuyến cuối**



Baffle boards (above left) consist of 3/4 inch plywood sheets with a soft gasket material like felt or foam rubber. They are effective for closing off vents, low windows and doors from floodwater. If placed over vents, however, baffle boards must be removed once the danger of flooding passes.

Using plastic tarp between a structure and sandbags helps keep floodwater from seeping between the house siding and foundation sills.

Puede usar láminas selladoras de madera prensada (plywood) o cubiertas de plástico.

Phải dùng những tấm ván ép hoặc miếng nhựa plastic chung với bao cát.

Care should be taken to place sandbags tightly against one another. Complete each layer before starting the next layer. Limit placement to two layers unless a backing or sandbags are stacked in a pyramid, or half pyramid, fashion.

Para formar una pared de bolsas de arena, coloque las bolsas pegadas unas a otras hasta formar una primera línea de defensa.

Muốn làm thành một bức tường bao cát, phải xếp các bao cát thật chặt vào nhau thành một lớp phòng ngự . . .

After placing the first layer of sandbags, stagger the second and subsequent layers of bags, much like the pattern of bricks in a wall.

Luego, coloque las siguientes bolsas alineadas encima y pegadas unas a otras como cuando se construye una pared de ladrillos.

. . . Rồi xếp đan thêm những lớp bao cát khác như xây tường gạch.



El Distrito del Agua del Valle de Santa Clara provee bolsas de arena GRATIS en diversos lugares de distribución del Condado. Las bolsas de arena colocadas apropiadamente pueden prevenir y reducir los daños de las inundaciones. Sin embargo, para evitar que el agua penetre en su casa no sólo debe confiar en las bolsas de arena. También puede usar láminas selladoras de madera prensada (plywood) o cubiertas de plástico.

Para formar una pared de bolsas de arena, coloque las bolsas pegadas unas a otras hasta formar una primera línea de defensa. Luego, coloque las siguientes bolsas alineadas encima y pegadas unas a otras como cuando se construye una pared de ladrillos.

Las bolsas de arena nunca deben colocarse alrededor del perímetro de su propiedad como semejando un fuerte, porque esto puede provocar que se almacene el agua entre las bolsas de arena y la estructura del edificio, causando un daño mayor.

PROTEJA SU CASA

Aquí le decimos cómo fabricar las “láminas selladoras” (baffles) de protección especiales para sellar los respiraderos de los cimientos, ventanas, puertas y puertas del garaje:

- Use una lámina de madera prensada de 3/4 de pulgada (plywood) y deje que los bordes sobrepasen unas 3 ó 4 pulgadas el tamaño de las aberturas.
- Utilize un material suave de esponja o fieltro de por lo menos 2 pulgadas de ancho y luego péguelo a la lámina usando un pegamento a prueba de agua (waterproof glue). Ahora usted ha fabricado una “lámina selladora” o “baffle”.
- Para asegurar la “lámina selladora” use por lo menos 4 clavos ó tornillos. Clavos ó tornillos especiales serán necesarios en paredes de cemento o ladrillo.
- Para las puertas, coloque las láminas selladoras en el exterior del marco de la puerta.
- Para las puertas de garaje, use láminas de madera de una pulgada. Las partes de abajo de las láminas deben adaptarse hasta encajar completamente con la superficie del piso. Selle las rajaduras de la puerta utilizando pedazos de lámina selladora.
- En una emergencia coloque éplástico o papel negro de construcción en las aberturas de la pared y luego séllelos con masilla ó material de insulación (caulk)

ANTES DE UNA AMENAZA

Si usted cree que su casa podría inundarse, hay ciertas precauciones que puede tomar para reducir el riesgo de daño.

Para casas construídas con piso de cemento (slab concrete)

- Use pinturas especiales para prevenir que el agua penetre y dañe el acabado exterior de cemento o ladrillo.
- Repare las rajaduras del cimientto exterior usando una mezcla de concreto especial para reparar cemento.
- Remueva la tierra de los extremos de la pared de cemento o madera y séllelos con material de insulación (caulk). Luego, podría volver a poner la tierra en su lugar ya que no afectará el sello.

Para casas construídas con piso de madera y cimientos de concreto:

- El agua puede penetrar debajo de la casa a travez de rajaduras, las ventanas de ventilación y agujeros de cañerías colocadas en los cimientos. El agua también podría penetrar debajo de la casa por entre las uniones de las paredes y los cimientos y luego empujar los pisos y coyunturas hasta alcanzar la altura de las aguas de afuera.
- Selle las ventanas y respiraderos de los cimientos con láminas de madera prensada (plywood). Los respiraderos de los cimientos son requeridos y deben estar abiertos para evitar la humedad y la putrefacción. Las láminas deben removerse inmediatamente después que pase el peligro de inundación.
- Selle las rajaduras de los cimientos y paredes de cemento con concreto o cualquier otro material especial para reparar. Haga lo mismo para sellar alrededor de las cañerías.
- Selle las uniones entre las paredes y cimientos, con material de insulación (caulk).

DESPUES DE LA TEMPORADA

Las bolsas de arena no deben tirarse. Por favor devuélvalas a los lugares de distribución antes del 15 de Mayo. La arena también puede agregarse a la tierra del jardín.

Công ty thủy cục quận Santa Clara cung cấp miễn phí bao cát đã đổ đầy tại các địa điểm phân phối trong toàn quận hạt. Đặt bao cát đúng cách sẽ ngăn ngừa hoặc giảm thiểu thiệt hại do lũ lụt gây nên.

Tuy nhiên muốn chặn nước khỏi vào nhà ta không thể ỷ lại vào bao cát không thôi. Phải dùng những tấm ván ép hoặc miếng nhựa plastic chung với bao cát. Muốn làm thành một bức tường bao cát, phải xếp các bao cát thật chặt vào nhau thành một lớp phòng ngự, rồi xếp đan thêm những lớp bao cát khác như xây tường gạch.

Đừng bao giờ nên xếp bao cát vòng xung quanh nhà như một thành lũy, vì khi nước ngập tràn vào sẽ bị giữ lại giữa tường cát và ngôi nhà càng gây thiệt hại v+ sau.

HÃY BẢO VỆ NGÔI NHÀ C-À BẠN

Sau đây là cách đóng ván chặn kín các lỗ thông hơi, cửa sổ, cửa nhà hoặc cửa garage:

- dùng ván ép dày 3/4" đóng kín các cửa, gối mỗi cạnh độ 3, 4 in.
 - dùng các loại đệm m+m như cao su, chất mốp rộng độ 2 in. dùng keo không thấm nước dán vào tấm ván ép.
 - độ cho an toàn, dùng ít nhất 4 cây đinh vít độ gắn mỗi tấm ván.
- Nếu tường đ c, xi măng hoặc gạch thì cần những loại đinh vít đặc biệt.
- Ô cửa nhà, phải đóng ván ở phía ngoài khung cửa.
 - Ô cửa garage, nên dùng loại ván dày 1 in. thay cho ván ép. Phần đáy phải vừa khít n+n nhà độ để bít kín. Dùng các loại chặn bít kín các kẽ cửa.
 - Trong trường hợp khẩn cấp, dùng những tấm nhựa plastic hoặc giấy dầu h/vc lợp nhà chặn các chỗ hở và lấy chất hồ vữa hay đất sét trám lại.

TR-ỒC CÒN ĐE D-À

N-u nghĩ r-ng nhà mình có th- bị ngập nước, bạn nên có những bước chuẩn bị trước độ giảm thiểu thiệt hại:

Nhà xây trên n-n đ c:

- Dùng loại sơn đặc biệt độ nước khỏi thấm vào tường tô hoặc tường gạch
- Dùng vữa trộn độ đập vá các kẽ nứt phía ngoài
- Cạo sạch đất cát dưới đáy tường tô hoặc tường ván, trét chất trộn hỗn hợp độ bít kẽ hở, lấp đất cát lại (sẽ không có hại cho chất hồ)

Nhà có sàn ván xây hổng mặt đất:

- Nước có th- thấm vào phần trống dưới n+n nhà, ở tầng hầm, thấm qua các kẽ hở, qua các lỗ chuy+n ống, lỗ thông hơi, cửa sổ, cửa lớn, thấm qua các ngưỡng cửa, rồi thấm dần qua vách và dâng lên cho bằng mức nước lụt bên ngoài.
- Bít các lỗ thông hơi và cửa sổ b-ng ván ép. Lỗ thông hơi có công dụng ngừa ẩm mốc và mục rữa, nên phải tháo ván ép ra ngay sau khi nước lụt không còn gây nguy hi- m.
- Trám các kẽ hở ở n+n nhà hoặc vách tô b-ng hồ đ c hoặc chất trám khác.
- Dùng hồ đ c, chất trám hoặc hồ trộn độ trám các chỗ trống của đường dẫn ống
- Trét kín các mí nối giữa n+n nhà và vách xung quanh.

SAU CÒN L-S-T

Không nên vất bao cát vào thùng rác hoặc bỏ xuống suối gần nhà. Có th- mang trả lại nơi phân phối vào khoảng ngày 15/5. Cát có th- dùng trộn thêm vào đất làm vườn.