

CITY OF MUSCATINE



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PREPARING YOURSELF, YOUR HOME FOR FLOODING

Iowa Severe Weather Awareness Week March 24-28; heavy rain creates flash floods

MUSCATINE, Iowa – Floods can develop gradually, giving forecasters time to predict where they might occur. However, flash floods can form within minutes, often with no warning. Being prepared can protect your family, home, and peace of mind.

Create a Communication Plan

Having a plan ensures you can contact family and friends during a disaster. Identify a designated contact person for updates and establish a safe meeting place. Knowing how to reconnect in an emergency is essential.

Assemble an Emergency Kit

Prepare a kit with enough supplies to last at least three days. Include:

- Non-perishable food and bottled water
- Medications and first aid supplies
- Flashlights and batteries
- Blankets and clothing
- NOAA Weather Radio or battery-operated radio

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- Rubber boots and gloves

Know Your Risk

Determine if your home, school, or workplace is in a floodplain. Familiarize yourself with nearby flood-prone roads and identify the fastest routes to higher ground.

Sign Up for Notifications

Stay informed with updates from the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS). They offer RSS feeds and alerts about river conditions and flood warnings.

Prepare Your Home

Protect your property with these steps:

1. Use sandbags or other barriers to block floodwaters, if time permits.
2. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent water backup.
3. Ensure your sump pump is working and have a backup available.
4. Clearly label your circuit breakers or fuses for easy access.
5. Confirm your flood insurance coverage with your provider. Flood insurance typically requires 30 days to take effect.

Prepare Your Family and Pets

In case of evacuation, pack essential items for yourself, your family, and pets in advance. Include medications, clothing, important documents, and pet supplies.

Charge Your Devices

Fully charge your cell phones and portable radios. Keep backup batteries on hand in case of power outages.

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Evacuate When Necessary

If flooding is imminent, evacuate immediately. Don't wait for an official order. Make arrangements for pets if needed and choose a safe place to stay.

Understanding Flood Alerts

Stay aware of National Weather Service alerts and know how to respond:

- **Flash Flood Warning (Take Action!)**: A flash flood is occurring or imminent. Move to higher ground immediately.
- **Flood Warning (Take Action!)**: Flooding is happening or about to happen. Follow evacuation orders if issued.
- **Flood Advisory (Be Aware)**: Minor flooding may occur, causing inconvenience. Stay cautious.
- **Flood Watch (Be Prepared)**: Conditions are favorable for flooding, though it is not guaranteed.

For additional resources on flood preparedness, visit the National Weather Service or Ready.gov.