

- **During the Storm**

The safety of your family is the most important consideration. Since floodwaters can rise very rapidly, you should be prepared to evacuate before the water level reaches your property. During the storm, the following tips may be helpful:

- Keep a battery-powered radio tuned to a local radio station.
- If you are caught in the house by suddenly rising waters, move to the second floor and, if necessary, to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Then wait for help. Don't try to swim to safety. Rescue teams will look for you.
- When outside the house, remember: **WATER DEPTHS DURING FLOODS ARE DECEPTIVE**. Try to avoid flooded areas, and **DO NOT** attempt to walk through floodwaters that are more than knee deep.
If, and only if, time permits . . . there are several precautionary steps that can be taken:
- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if evacuation appears necessary.
- Move valuable items to upper floors or higher elevations.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case regular supplies are contaminated. You can sanitize these items by first rinsing in bleach.
- Board up windows or protect them with storm shutters or tape to prevent flying glass.
- Bring outdoor possessions inside the house or tie them down securely. This includes lawn furniture, garbage cans, tools, and other movable objects that might be swept away or hurled about.
- Stock the car with blankets, first aid kit, flashlights, dry clothing, and any special medication needed by your family. Park the car in an area safe from rising waters.

- **Important things you DO NOT do during a flood**

- DO NOT drive where the water is over the roads. Parts of the road may already be washed out.
- If your car stalls in a flooded area, DO NOT remain in the car. Abandon it as soon as possible and seek higher ground. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car (and its occupants) away. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.
- Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding. DO NOT try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. You could be swept away by strong currents.
- DO NOT sightsee in flooded areas and do not make unnecessary trips. Use the telephone only for emergencies or to report dangerous conditions

- **After the flood: During the aftermath of a flooding event, follow these steps to aid your family's safety:**

- Before entering a building, check for structural damage. Make sure it is not in danger of collapsing. Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank, and let the house air for several minutes to remove foul odors or escaping gas.
- Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police or fire department.
- Upon entering the building, DO NOT use an open flame as a light source since gas may be trapped inside. A battery-operated flashlight is ideal.
- DO NOT handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If appliances or electrical equipment have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.

- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** – In the event of a flood disaster, a flood-damaged property is not covered under homeowner’s insurance. A property owner must have flood insurance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to ensure their property is insured. Because Berlin is a community participating in the NFIP, any resident with flood-vulnerable property has access to this insurance.
- **Additional Resources available from FEMA**

The following on-line resources provide additional information on Flood Insurance and how to protect property from flood damage.

FEMA’s Floodsmart webpage:

<https://www.floodsmart.gov/>