



Preparing for the Next Flood

A CHECKLIST FOR HOMEOWNERS

When you hear that there is a “Flood Watch” or a “Flood Warning” there’s only limited time for last minute preparations. This checklist helps you consider critical items in your home and the surrounding area to think about in advance of a flood situation so you can act quickly when a flood is about to hit.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- **Is my house in a floodplain**, and if so is it in danger of repetitive loss? Should the house be raised or “razed?”
- **Are there flood-proofing measures** that you could implement to reduce future losses?
- **Do I need flood insurance?** Check with town officials about the National Flood Insurance Program.

This list provides a good general outline and starting point for flood preparedness, but is not intended to be a comprehensive list. For additional resources refer to www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org.

IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

WELL BEFORE A FLOOD

- Prepare a written **flooding evacuation plan**
- Ensure **sump pump is adequate**, operational and has backup power source
- Cache **essentials & important items** that you can carry with you when moving to higher ground
- Have **flashlights and adequate drinking water storage containers** in case of power outage
- Minimize **items stored in basement**; elevate any items stored there. **No storage of toxics**. Make sure **fuse box, switches and outlets are accessible** during high water.

WHEN FLOODING IS IMMINENT

- **Fasten and sand bag bulkhead door**
- **Turn off furnace / boiler and electrical breakers**
- **Secure drinking water** for use after flood recedes

IN YOUR YARD

WELL BEFORE A FLOOD

- Keep **underground propane tanks** filled
- Do not store in your yard **items that could be carried away** or damaged; **anchor** remaining items
- Securely **anchor above ground propane tanks**
- Properly **maintain driveway and culverts** to reduce vulnerability to erosion

WHEN FLOODING IS IMMINENT

- **Move vehicles** to higher ground
- **Check yard for any items** not already secured
- **Close valves on propane tanks**

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

WELL BEFORE A FLOOD

- **Check your town’s emergency preparedness plans** and incorporate relevant info into your plans
- **Check any rock walls, vanes, grassed waterways** on your property to see if they are in proper repair
- **Be aware of sites (i.e. nearby culverts and bridges) where debris and /or ice jams can form** and exacerbate flooding
- **Talk to your neighbors** and exchange ideas about preparing for the next flood

Consider the above items, and your own situation, and then prepare your individual plan. Practice and revise if necessary.

BE PREPARED By doing so you will save money, reduce stress and may even save your life.

Emergency Numbers

Fire, Police, and Medical: *Dial 911*

State Police in Middlesex: *229-9191*

VTrans Road Conditions Hotline: *Dial 511*
www.511vt.com

National Weather Service, Burlington VT:
802-862-2475
www.erh.noaa.gov/er/btv

United Way: *Dial 211*
Referral for emergency food and shelter,
transportation, and more.
www.vermont211.org

FEMA Assistance: *800-621-3362*
www.fema.gov

Friends of the Mad River

MORE INFO: FRIENDSOFTHEMADRIVER.COM