

Flood Safety Instructions

When a FLOOD WARNING is issued by the National Weather Service:

1. Listen to your radio or TV for emergency instructions.
2. Keep portable radio, emergency cooking equipment and flashlights, first aid and medical supplies (prescriptions, insulin, etc) at hand.
3. Keep your automobile fueled.
4. Fill large containers with tap water for drinking and cooking.
5. Secure outdoor items that might be washed away.
6. Move household belongings to upper levels.

When flooding starts:

1. Shut off your utilities. Cut off all electric circuits at the fuse panel or disconnect switch. If this is not possible, turn off or disconnect all electrical appliances. Shut off the water service and gas valves in your home.
2. If you must evacuate, do so quickly and safely. If you do not have any place to stay, the Village has arranged for a block of rooms to be reserved at the Country Inn and Suites, 2600 Lake Cook Road, at a reduced rate for residents presenting a driver's license with a Riverwoods address.
3. Do not attempt to drive on a flooded road or walk if the water is above your knees or moving. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
4. Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. Beware of fire hazards such as charcoal, gas or oil leaks and broken electrical wires.
5. **If you have a private well**, check its condition. If the well casing is submerged, surface water may have entered the well and contaminated the drinking water. In these cases, you should not drink the water until it is tested and shown to meet drinking water standards. If coliform bacteria are present in your drinking water, the well should be disinfected by a licensed water well contractor and then resampled. LCHD has three regional offices where you can pick up sterile bottles to be filled and returned for analysis, and where information can be obtained about disinfecting wells. The fee for the analysis is \$15.00 per sample, and the tests usually take about three days to complete. LCHD staff will also go out to homes to collect samples for a fee (including analysis) of \$44.00. Fees will be waived for people living in flooded areas. The three regional offices are located at: 3010 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, (847) 377-8020; 118 South Main Street, Wauconda, (847) 984-5000; and 121 East Grand Avenue, Lake Villa, (847) 356-6222. All three offices are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please Remember...

- Save yourself, not your belongings.
- Stay away from flood waters – even water that is six inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- Do not let children play in or near flood waters, flooded creeks or flood retention ponds.
- Never try to drive through flood waters – if your car stalls, leave it and head for higher ground on foot.
- Once you are in safe place, listen to a battery powered radio for official updates or wait for emergency workers to give you instructions.

General Rule of Thumb

1. Stay calm. Try not to panic, take time to understand what has happened and to think about what you can do to stay safe or to avoid a worse injury.
2. Check the scene. Pay attention to your surroundings to see whether you are in a safe location and if there is anyone around who needs help; if you believe that you are in danger, go to a safer location as soon as you can.
3. Give and get help. If you or others are hurt or still in danger call 911; explain what has happened, your location, the injuries that people have and whether the danger still exists. Listen for official emergency announcements. Local radio and television stations will give emergency updates and instructions. Residents may tune to cable channel 17.
4. Get prepared to evacuate if told by local authorities. If you are told to leave your home or work, do so right away. Follow exact evacuation routes and go to the specified shelter or safe area.