



Flood Awareness and Safety

www.skagitcounty.net/DEM

Prep Kit Tips & Tricks

Things I Already Have:

Nonperishable food: Items like granola bars, cereal, peanut butter, canned fruits, veggies and dried meat make great additions for your emergency preparedness kit! Check expiration dates and don't forget a manual can opener!

Water: Store commercially bottled water in a cool, dry, dark place to keep it safe to drink. You can also buy food-grade water storage containers. DIY stored water needs to be replaced every six months.

First Aid Kit: DIY kits should include 25 adhesive bandages, antibiotic ointment, antiseptic wipes, painkillers, cold compress, latex gloves, scissors, gauze, a thermometer and your family's prescription medications.

Hygiene Items: Set aside a toothbrush and toothpaste, saline solution, extra glasses or contacts and feminine supplies for your kit.

Cash or travelers checks: Have cash on hand for simple transactions after an emergency.

Extra clothes and shoes: Items that still fit but you don't wear any more are perfect for your emergency kit.

Cloth face masks and cleaning supplies: During the COVID-19 pandemic, or during any communicable disease outbreak, it's important to have disease management supplies ready to go!

Things I Can Buy:

The Kit: whether it's a storage tub or a backpack, check thrift stores, sales and dollar stores for a sturdy container to keep your prepped materials in.

Bleach: Household chlorine bleach can be used to disinfect water.

Matches or lighters: Store them in a waterproof container.

Extra phone chargers: To help you stay in contact during an emergency.

Picnic supplies: Mess kits and paper plates can reduce water needs after an emergency.

Extra pet supplies: Store at least 3 days worth of pet food, water and medications in your go bag in case of an emergency.

Including Communicable Disease in your Emergency Planning

Emergencies come in all shapes and sizes, and sometimes they get stacked on top of each other, like dealing with a flood or a wildfire season during a pandemic. The most important thing in preparing for emergencies during a pandemic or disease outbreak is to learn about and practice effective transmission control. The easiest and most effective way to limit the spread of most diseases is to frequently wash your hands, use good cough and sneeze hygiene, avoid close contact with ill people and wear a mask.

Here's some examples of things you should do to be prepared:

- Keep your vaccinations up to date. They only help prevent illness if done **before** you get sick, so it's important to keep up on a regular vaccination schedule. Haven't gotten the COVID-19 vaccine yet? Visit www.skagitcounty.net/covidvaccine to find a clinic happening near you!
- Have a supply of face masks, hand sanitizer and tissues in your go bag for every person in your household.
- Have a way to disinfect surfaces, whether in your home or at an evacuation location.
- Consider social distancing in your evacuation plan. Will you have enough space to keep socially distanced from those outside your household? Be advised that you may need to travel farther away from home to find shelter since local evacuation centers may have smaller occupancy during a disease outbreak.
- Be sure you know how to find or create safe drinking water.
- Know where to get accurate, verified information— not just for weather and evacuations— but for disease information. The Centers For Disease Control (CDC), Washington State Department of Health, Skagit Public Health are great options.

Planning for emergencies is a never ending process. If you don't have a plan, talk with your household and come up with one! If you do, you can always find ways to make it better. Adding a few simple things to your plan can help keep your family healthy and safe— even during a disease outbreak.

DID YOU KNOW that the printing of this insert helps lower flood insurance costs in Skagit County? Keeping our FEMA Community Rating System score low helps keep NFIP rates low for all Skagitonians!

FLOOD INFORMATION

Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management

360-416-1850

www.SkagitCounty.net/DEM

Facebook: @SkagitCountyWA

Twitter: @SkagitGov

Skagit County Public Health

360-416-1500

www.SkagitCounty.net/Health

Facebook: @SkagitPublicHealth

Twitter: @SkagitGov

River Level Hotline:

360-416-1404

ARE YOU AT RISK?

Do you live in a flood or channel
migration zone?

msc.fema.gov

GET LOCAL ALERTS

Sign up for Skagit County's
CodeRED notifications

skagit911.us

GET INSURANCE

Standard Insurance doesn't cover
floods. Do you need it?

floodsmart.gov

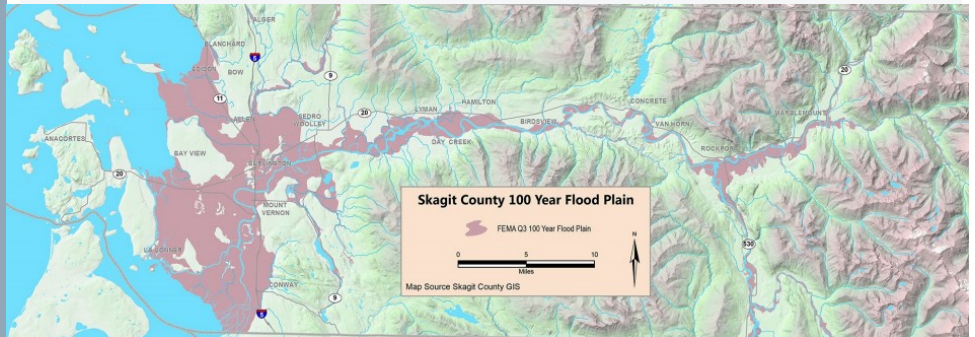
DIY PREP KITS

Complete checklists online:
Redcross.org/prepare
Ready.gov/build-a-kit

MAKE A PLAN

How will your family stay safe?
www.ready.gov/make-a-plan

FLOODS: ARE YOU AT RISK?



100-YEAR FLOOD

A flood that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any single year. A 100-year flood can occur several times or never within a 100-year period.

PHASE 3 FLOODING

Phase 3 floods inundate low areas near the Skagit River, may cover sections of roads, and occur roughly every few years. They generally cause minimal damage in the Skagit River valley.

PHASE 2 FLOODING

Phase 2 floods inundate a wider area and may cause significant damage. A large Phase 2 flood occurred in December 1975; it was estimated to be a 10-year flood event.

PHASE 1 FLOODING

Phase 1 floods can cause catastrophic damage. The last Phase 1 flood occurred in November 2006, when the Skagit River reached a height of 39.79 feet on the flood gauge in Concrete.

FLOOD STAGE

Site-specific river level at which flooding may occur. Usually at or above the top of the riverbank. Flood heights are typically measured relative to flood stage elevations. Find a map of flood gauges and flood stages online: skagitcounty.net/riverlevels.

FLOOD WATCH

A flood watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur, and when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding WILL occur, but it is possible.

FLOOD ADVISORY

A flood advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. Flooding may occur, and may cause inconvenience. If caution is not exercised, flooding could lead to threats to life and/or property.

FLOOD WARNING

A flood warning is issued when the hazardous weather event is imminent or already happening. Flooding may also be imminent or occurring. Tune in to your local emergency alert system to find out if you need to evacuate.

ACTIONS TO TAKE...

...During a Flood Watch

Know your local emergency plans. Where will you go to find higher ground, and how will you get there?

Check and restock your kit. Make sure you have at least 2 weeks of food & water for everyone in your home as well as all items you may need.

Sign up for alerts. Timely local weather alerts and warnings can help you make smart decisions. Make sure you know the difference between 'watch' and 'warning'

Follow Skagit County on Twitter at @SkagitGov for updates



...During a Flood Advisory

Stay informed. Turn on your TV, radio or follow social media for the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.

Know Where to Go. You may need to reach high ground quickly and on foot. Make sure you know your primary and back up evacuation routes.

Prepare your home. Bring in outdoor furniture and move important items to elevated areas to protect them from floodwaters. DO NOT shelter in attics.

Disconnect appliances. Unplug electrical appliances, and if instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the source. This prevents fires and explosions.



...During a Flood Warning

Take Immediate action. Evacuate as directed or move immediately to higher ground.

Don't walk or drive through floodwaters. Even small amounts of moving water can sweep people and vehicles away. If waters rise around your car, but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to high ground.

Avoid bridges over floodwaters. Fast moving water can weaken bridge footings and make the structure unstable. Go around if at all possible.

SKAGIT RIVER: A MOVING HISTORY

Rivers don't just flow— they move! All rivers change course throughout their lifetimes. Properties within the 100 year flood plain and near historic river channels are at risk of flooding.

Look at Skagit River History: Skagit County's Lidar Story Map and iMap layer show you the earth beneath the Skagit River. Historic Channels, oxbows, landslides and other features are clearly visible. Take a look: skagitcounty.net/lidar

FLOODING CAN ALSO BE CAUSED BY A TSUNAMI

Tsunamis are a series of waves most commonly caused by an earthquake under the ocean. Tsunamis can occur at any time of the day or night. In deep water, they can travel as fast as a commercial jet plane and go unnoticed by ships. As a tsunami approaches the shore, it slows down and grows to great, destructive heights. **What can you do to be prepared for a tsunami?**

Know the siren sound. Skagit County has 11 tsunami sirens. Each siren is tested on the first Monday of the month at 12:00 p.m.. During the monthly test, the siren will sound for approximately 30 seconds. In the event of tsunami, the siren will sound for 3 minutes.

Find your evacuation route. The Washington Emergency Management division has evacuation maps available at mil.wa.gov/tsunami. Review the maps ahead of time and make a plan with your family for where and how you're evacuating.

Get informed! Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management offers webinars on tsunami preparedness. Find out more at watch recordings at skagitcounty.net/dem

WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD

After a flood, you need to make sure your home is safe to enter or occupy. If you live in unincorporated Skagit County, call Skagit County Planning and Development Services at 360-416-1320 to arrange a post-damage assessment.

If you live in a city or town, contact your municipal government. FEMA and/or your insurance company may require an assessment. Inspectors will :

- Inspect the interior and exterior of buildings for any potential damage
- Document observed damage at the percentage each component is affected.
- Determine the highest water level that was in the building.
- Classify the building damage as minor, major or destroyed.

You can find initial damage assessment forms at www.skagitcounty.net/dem

FLOOD FAST FACTS

The Skagit River has reached flood stage more than 60 times in the last 100 years, including 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020!

6 inches of moving water can knock a person down!

More than 30,000 people live in Skagit's 100 year floodplain. If you live in or near low-lying areas, near a body of water, along a coast or downstream of a levee or dam— you may be at risk for flooding

Floods are the #1 natural disaster in the United States.

A car can be easily carried away by just two feet of moving water!



PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Protect your water source. Floodwaters can pollute wells with silts, contaminants and bacteria. Assess your well pump before turning it on to ensure no physical damage has occurred, and then call Skagit County Public Health at 360-416-1500 for information about residential well water testing and current advisories for your area.

Get rid of mold and protect indoor air. After a flood, your home is at higher risk for mold growth. Reduce the risk by removing as much standing water as possible from floors, carpets and other fabric surfaces. Completely remove wet materials that can't be dried within 48 hours. Empty your basement by 1/3 the volume each day, beginning once surrounding floodwaters have receded. Open windows and warm the house up as much as possible— air it out!

Avoid CO2 poisoning during power outages. CO2 is colorless, odorless and is poisonous to people and pets. During a prolonged power outage, you may need to use alternative means for heat and cooking, but **never ever use BBQs, propane heaters, generators or gas ranges indoors.** Make sure you have a battery operated CO2 detector in your home and learn the signs of CO2 exposure (headache, dizziness, nausea/vomiting, chest pain and confusion). Learn more about CO2 exposure at <https://doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/CarbonMonoxide>