

William Johnson, Coordinator
Ontonagon County Emergency Services
725 Greenland Road
Ontonagon, Michigan 49953

Office (906) 884-4980
Home (906) 884-2837
Cell (906) 231-0484
emontonagon@jamadots.com

Press Release: Flood Preparedness

The safest way to deal with a flood is to go somewhere else, stay somewhere else, and be safe when returning to the flood scene.

Advice on how to stay safe.

Be alert:

- Monitor your surroundings
- Monitor weather radio or local radio and TV stations

Assemble disaster supplies:

- Drinking water, non-refrigerated food, cash, first aid kit, battery powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, important documents

Be prepared to evacuate:

- Identify a place to go, identify route to that place, plan what to do with your pets, keep your car's gas tank full, make sure all family members have a contact number

Protect your property:

- Move valuables and anything that will be damaged by water away from building or move to areas above the level of windows, on tables or saw horses with wood sheets
- Move hazardous materials to higher areas
- Disconnect electrical appliances before water reaches outlets
- Bring outside possessions inside or tie them down securely
- Seal basement vents and doors on ground level with tarps or plastic sheeting and hold in place with filled sandbags or just buckets of sand.
- If you have sump pumps check to see that they are working.
- Do not barricade yourself inside, opening an escape door against the pressure of water is next to impossible.

If a flood occurs:

- Monitor weather radio or local radio and TV
- Do not drive into flooded areas
- Be extra cautious at night
- Stay on high ground
- Evacuate immediately if advised
- Shut off all utilities if possible

Stay away from flooded areas, many hazards may be present
Do not enter area until it is cleared as safe.
Get pictures and document any damages
Get professional help, any area that has been flooded is considered a hazardous area because of possibility of contaminants and pathogens that may have been released.

The best and safest way to protect yourself and family from flooding is by staying aware of your surroundings, preparing a plan of action, and be ready to implement this plan if necessary.