



SEBASTOPOL FIRE DEPARTMENT

FLOOD INFORMATION

- Basic Safety Tips:
 - Turn Around, Don't Drown! ®
 - Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters.
 - Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
 - If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the US.
 - If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
 - Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.
- **Flood Watch = "Be Aware." Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.**
- Steps to Take:
 - Turn on your TV/radio. You will receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
 - Know where to go. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.

- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit.
- Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies
- Prepare Your Home:
 - Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage.
 - Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted.
 - If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.
- **Flood Warning = "Take Action!" Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.**
- Steps to Take:
 - Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground.
 - Evacuate if directed.
 - Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Remember, just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- After a Flood:
 - Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
 - Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.
 - Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded.
 - Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.
- When it is Not Flooding: Make a Flood Plan
 - Know your flood risks.
 - Make a flood emergency plan.
 - Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
 - Consider buying flood insurance.
 - Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there should you need to get to higher ground, the highest level of a building, or to evacuate.
 - Stay tuned to your phone alerts, TV, or radio for weather updates, emergency instructions, or evacuation orders.