

1) Before a Flood: Make a Plan			
• Make an emergency evacuation and communication plan for family and pets, including identifying where you will meet in an emergency • Talk with your neighbors about emergency plans, especially for those with special needs • Know where you and your loved ones will stay if your home is flooded • Prepare your home so that flood damage will be minimal. • Plan for parking vehicles/boats/RVs out of flood risk area		• Check with your insurance agency about buying a flood insurance policy. Homeowners insurance does not cover damage from flooding. • Learn the safest route from home, work, or school to higher ground or your emergency meeting spot. • Keep a gas can filled for emergencies. • Gather important documents, including a list of valuables, and keep it off site, or in a waterproof container in your emergency supply kit.	
Assemble a Flood Emergency Kit			
First Aid & Medications	Food & Provisions	Emergency Communications	Important Contacts & Documents
• medications (1-week supply) • first aid kit • hand sanitizer & hand wipes	• soap & toiletries • change of clothing • rain gear & sturdy shoes • sleeping bag & bedding • food & provisions for all family members, including pets • extra pair of eyewear	• battery-powered radio • phone & charger • whistle to signal for help • flashlight • fresh batteries	• a list of family physicians/ medical information • photocopies of important documents (e.g. Insurance) • identification cards, credit cards, cash & checks
Prepare Your Home if You Live in a High Flood Risk Area			
• Elevate your furnace, water heater, electrical panel and other utilities. Secure propane, kerosene & oil tanks. • Stow or secure lawn mowers, barbeque grills & other items that may be carried away by floodwaters if your area is under flood warning. • Install check valves to prevent water from backing up drains.		• Store cleaning supplies and other hazardous materials up high so they will not be carried away by flood waters. • Have emergency waterproofing supplies, such as sandbags, and know how you can install them quickly, easily and effectively.	
2) During a Flood: Be Ready to Act			
• Stay informed by tuning into local radio, television and weather reports. Battery-powered radios are affordable and widely available. • Disconnect appliances, if it is safe. Don't enter rooms with water covering electrical outlets or power cords. • If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Be sure to lock your home.			
3) After a Flood: Returning Home			
• If advised to evacuate, wait until you are told it is safe before returning home. • Stay informed— tune into local news for information on road closures, boil water alerts, etc. • Exercise caution when entering flood-damaged buildings. Buildings may not be safe. • If your home has been flooded: ▪ Do not turn on electrical appliances until checked by a licensed electrician. ▪ Care should be taken to drain water gradually from the building to avoid structural damage. ▪ Walls and floors should be disinfected or replaced to avoid growth of mold and mildew. • Well water should be tested for bacteria before drinking. Call RCDOH (518) 270-2655 for certified labs list. RCDOH after hours emergency (518) 857-4660.			



Flood Preparedness Guide

for Residents and Businesses in the City of Rensselaer

Beware of Floodwater!	Finding Help
• If your house is surrounded by floodwater, move to the highest possible point and call 911. • Do not drive into floodwaters. Two feet of water will carry your car away. Turn around—don't drown! • Do not stand on bridges or near the shore during a flood. • Do not sightsee during a flood! You could put yourself and others in danger. • Floodwater may be contaminated. Do not wade or swim in it!	Emergency Shelter you can search here: https://egateway.fema.gov/ESF6/DRCLocator# Other sources for flood relief: https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief.html <i>*For real time emergency shelter information, download the American Red Cross Mobile App</i> https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps.html
Know Your Risk and Stay Informed!	
  Use the QR code above or visit rensselaer.ny.gov to register to receive notices from the City of Rensselaer Notification System	Know Your Zone: Review the map attached and determine how close you are to areas that are in a flood zone or near waterways. If you're not sure if you are at risk based on the map please check flood maps that are available through FEMA at: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home Emergency Notifications will be made via radio/TV/Social Media and County-wide Community Emergency Notification Systems. Check with your school district to learn where to locate emergency notifications and school closings New York Alert: You can sign up for the New York State notification system to receive phone calls or emails that will alert you to serious or emergency situations. Register at https://alert.ny.gov/
Pet Shelter	Flood Recovery References
Mohawk Hudson Humane Society 3 Oakland Ave. Menands, NY 12204 (518) 434-8128 www.mohawkhumane.org	This guide was produced using many web-based resources. This QR code links to a listing of those resources. Check it out! 



Climate Smart
Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Rensselaer County



Department of
Environmental Conservation



City of Rensselaer

Flood Preparedness Map

