

## ▶ DID YOU KNOW?

90% of all natural disasters are water related?

Asia is the region most vulnerable to water-related disasters, accounting for more than 45% of fatalities and more than 90% of the people affected by disasters between 1980 and 2006. (UNESCO, 2009)

## ▶ FLOOD WATCH vs FLOOD WARNING

**Flood watch:**  
Current weather conditions are favorable for flooding. A flood watch does not guarantee that a flood will occur, it is a very good indication that your community will experience severe weather.

**Flood warning:**  
A flood is either imminent or occurring.

## ▶ TYPES OF WATER DISASTERS

Floods, landslides, tsunamis, storms, heat waves, cold spells, droughts and waterborne disease outbreaks



## BEFORE FLOODING OCCURS

- Develop a Flood safety plan
- Identify flood-prone or landslide-prone areas near you
- Know your community's warning signals, evacuation routes, emergency shelter locations
- Practice safe hygiene: Listen for info from local officials on how to safely utilize water to drink, cook or clean
- Residents to obtain plastic sheeting or timber to protect property
- When flood warning is given, put out fires and stoves.
- Move valuables onto higher ground (e.g. seed can be wrapped in plastic bags, sealed clay pots can be buried)

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## DURING FLOODING

### INDOORS

- Gather emergency supplies
- Follow local radio or TV updates
- Unplug electrical appliances
- Turn off gas, power & water when
  - a) power lines are down;
  - b) water is in your home; or
  - c) before you evacuate
- Tie down or bring outdoor items inside

### OUTDOORS

- Do not drive or walk across flooded roads (cars and/or people can be swept away)
- Do not try to swim to safety
- Avoid entering the water at all costs
- Water flow can reach incredible speeds
- Water temperatures can drop and cause hypothermia
- Water depth can vary
- Underwater objects can cause injury; be aware of open drains and article that can entrap
- Water can become polluted by sewage or industrial chemicals
- Steer clear of any electricity systems

**If you do end up in the water, try defensive swimming (on your back with feet pointed downstream, hips lifted as far as possible and use arms in backward stroke action)**



## AFTER FLOODING

### INDOORS

- Throw away items that cannot be disinfected (towels, rugs, cloth)
- for cleanup wear rubber boots and plastic gloves
- Clean walls, hard floors and other surfaces with soap and water (1 cup of bleach and 4 liters of water)
- Use fans or dehumidifiers for drying
- **CAUTION:** Flood water may contain trash

### OUTDOORS

- **CAUTION:** Flood water contain high levels of bacteria; don't drink or play in it
- Gather flood trash and expose of in order to prevent spread of disease
- Animals were also displaced; they may have taken up residence in your home
- Beware of reptiles and snakes
- Be aware of combustibles gasses and explosive gasses which may accumulate from decaying materials
- Wear sturdy shoes when you start the cleaning up
- Avoid contact with downed electric power lines



## THE IMPACTS OF WATER-RELATED DISASTERS

### Direct impact

Damage to buildings, crops and infrastructure, and loss of life and property

### Indirect impact

Losses in productivity and livelihoods, increased investment risk, indebtedness and human health impacts

**Impacts are further exacerbated by:**



unplanned urbanization



degradation of ecosystem services



**Reducing risk and improving resilience of water & sanitation services will be key to maintaining access during a climatically uncertain time**

## ▶ DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 Some people build in flood-prone areas with fertile land and irrigation opportunities; others are pushed into such areas due to land limitations. Are there opportunities to develop relationships with others on higher land to assist during flooding?
- 2 Transport options for people to move to higher ground; how can communities ensure that everyone knows the location of emergency shelters?
- 3 Who will be responsible for the weakest people in community (elderly, pregnant, disabled people) to get to safety?
- 4 Identifying safe routes to go by during flooding (markers: plant trees to mark these routes)
- 5 What should be done should elderly refuse to leave homes when flood warning is given?

## SOURCES

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

<https://www.tearfund.org/en/>

