



CITY OF REDDING

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

Flood Safety Awareness

Flood Safety Awareness Week: March 16-20, 2009

This week marks the start of "Flood safety awareness week". The Redding Fire Department wants to remind its citizens to be careful when approaching a flooded area and follow the following rules to remain safe.

Do Not Walk Through Flowing Water

Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Most occur during flash floods. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole or stick to make sure that the ground is still there before you go through an area where the water is not flowing.

Do Not Drive Through a Flooded Area

Most people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

If your home or business has been affected by flood water, do the following:

Stay Away From Power Lines and Electrical Wires

Electrocution is also a major killer in floods. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to your utility company or local emergency manager.

Turn Off Your Electricity When You Return Home

Some appliances, such as television sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

Look Before You Step

After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be Alert for Gas Leaks

Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you are sure that the gas has been turned off and the area has been aired out.



Carbon Monoxide Exhaust Kills

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Fumes from charcoal are especially deadly -- cook with charcoal only outdoors.

Clean Everything That Gets Wet

Floodwaters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Spoiled food and flooded cosmetics and medicines are health hazards. When in doubt, throw them out.

Take Good Care of Yourself

Recovering from a flood is a big job. It is tough on both the body and the spirit. And the effects a disaster has on you and your family may last a long time. Learn how to recognize and care for anxiety, stress, and fatigue.

Note On Flood Insurance

Most homeowner's insurance policies do NOT offer protection against flood losses. For information about flood insurance, call your local insurance agent, or call the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) at (800) 638-6620.

Check out the following web sites for more information on flood safety.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/>
<http://www.floodsafety.com/national/life/vehicledanger.htm>
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/safety/flashflood.html>
<http://www.weather.gov/os/water/tadd/tadd-resources.shtml>
<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/safety/flash-floods.asp>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/preparedness/safeff.htm>

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