

A large silhouette of a family (two adults and a child) is shown in black against a blue background. The family is gathered around a table, looking at a map. A dashed line with an arrow indicates an evacuation route from a house icon to the right. The text 'HAVE A PLAN' is written in large, bold, white and blue letters across the top of the silhouette.

HAVE A PLAN

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What's the plan?

Having a flood readiness plan will make you better prepared for a flood or other emergency event.

A flood plan can be a simple, one-page plan that identifies safe evacuation routes, determines where your family will meet up during a flood event (choose a meeting place outside your home or in a place far from flooding), and lists family and emergency phone numbers. More elaborate plans will detail the river level at which certain access roads to your property begin to close, and the level at which your property begins to be affected by flood waters. You should also consider how you will handle important documents, computer harddrives, and your pets. What about your family photographs? Make a plan to store important items safely away from flood waters, perhaps in the attic or upper floor of the house, and decide which items you will take with you in an emergency.

Your plan should also note where you've stored your Emergency Go-Kit, and what it contains. An Emergency Go-Kit contains all the items you might need to take with in case you need to evacuate during a flood event. Although modern river forecasting means you will often have at least a day's notice of a major flood, weather and river levels can be unpredictable, and you need to be prepared for a quick evacuation. Items that might be in your Go-Kit include: a first aid kit, extra clothing and blankets, a large plastic bag for warmth and protection, non-perishable snacks and food and can opener, pet food if you have animals, water, an emergency radio with extra batteries, money, copies of your identification, a small light stick and flashlight, hand wipes, a whistle, eyeglasses and medicine, personal hygiene products, a map of the area, and other items you might decide upon. Having these items ready means you will be prepared in case you need to take temporary shelter away from your home.

Floods can be frightening events, and it is better to be prepared in advance, so you don't have to make difficult decisions under pressure.

www.focusonfloods.org

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