

# Be Safe Be Prepared

*If your local government advises  
evacuation of your area*

**DO SO IMMEDIATELY**

*Know the location of your local  
Emergency shelter.*



Make your plans and preparations for an emergency the subject of a family discussion.

Share your family's plan with friends and relatives.

All emergency preparedness is a team effort for everyone in the neighborhood and community.

**Knowing the facts is  
the best preparation.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[www.maine.gov/mema](http://www.maine.gov/mema)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

[www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

**Oxford County EMA  
And  
Rumford Emergency  
Management**

**151 Congress Street  
Rumford, Maine 04276  
[www.rumfordfire.com](http://www.rumfordfire.com)**

**[oxctyema@megalink.net](mailto:oxctyema@megalink.net)  
[www.megalink.net/~oxctyema/](http://www.megalink.net/~oxctyema/)**



# Flooding and Flash Floods

**Oxford County Emergency  
Management Agency and  
Rumford Emergency  
Management**



*Prepare\*Respond\*Recover\*Mitigate*

**Phone: 207.364.2901**

## Flooding and Flash Floods



### What is the difference between a Flood and Flash Flooding?

- ~ **Flash Flooding** occurs within 6 hours of a rain event and is usually caused by slow moving thunderstorms, repeated thunderstorms moving over the same area or from hurricanes and tropical storms.
- ~ **Flooding** is a longer term event and can last up to a week or more! You can see flooding along rivers, the coast, and in urban areas.
- ~ **FLASH FLOODS** are the Number 1 weather-related killer in the United States! Nearly half of those deaths are auto related!

**WATCH:** Severe Weather is possible within the designated watch area. Be alert!

**WARNING:** Severe weather has been reported or is imminent. Take necessary precautions

### Be Safe



#### Flooding/Flash Floods:

- ~ Listen for thunder. Large amounts of rain could possibly be coming your way in a nearby thunderstorm. Watch for rapidly rising water.
- ~ Look for flooding at low-lying spots on roads and highways, bridges or other low areas when in your car.
- ~ Only two feet of water can carry away most vehicles. **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.** Also remember that you cannot tell if the road is intact or damaged if it is covered in water.
- ~ Avoid walking, swimming or driving in flood waters.
- ~ Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, or culverts. If it is moving swiftly, 6 inches can knock you off your feet.

#### Flash Flooding:

- ~ If advised to evacuate, do so **IMMEDIATELY!**
- ~ If a flash flood **WATCH** is issued for your area, take necessary precautions, and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.
- ~ If a flash flood **WARNING** is issued for your area, you may only have **SECONDS** to get to safety! Act quickly to save yourself!



For more information visit  
<http://www.noaa.gov>

#### PLANNING AHEAD

***Don't wait for a flood to happen to find a place to go! Make it a part of your emergency plan.***

***Identify a location where you could go to if you need to evacuate, such as a shelter, a relative's home, or a motel.***

***Make sure you identify a location in a flooding emergency that is on higher ground.***