

Flood Preparation

It is important to have a family emergency plan in place for flooding or any other natural or man-made disaster. This plan is a pre-determined set of action steps that you will take during a disastrous event. We never know if or when disaster will strike, but preparing in advance increases our safety and lessens our anxieties during an emergency. Many people question “What should I do in the event of a flood?” “What type of plan should I have in place?” “What supplies do I need?” These are all valid questions. Although the City of Delano is not responsible for your personal property or family emergency plan, we can assist in preparing:

“What should I do in the event of a flood?”

- Because standard homeowners insurance does not cover flooding, it is important to have flood insurance. It is also important that you understand your flood insurance and what it covers in the event of a flood. For questions regarding your flood insurance contact your insurance agent. More information can be found at www.FloodSmart.gov.
- Understand the level of the river and what it means to your property (see graph on opposite page). Know the elevation of your property.
- Be aware of area radio and television stations of flood warnings. The City of Delano will also have updates available on the City website: www.delano.mn.us.
- Be cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood danger.
- Keep children away from creeks, streams and drainage systems.
- Do not drive through standing or flowing water.

“What type of plan should I have in place?”

- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment’s notice.
 - Where would you and your family go and how will you get there?
 - How will you move your personal items?
 - Where will you live in the event of a flood?
- Teach family members how and when to turn off utilities - gas, electricity and water.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1.

“What supplies do I need?”

- Battery or crank-operated radio and batteries
- First aid kit/supplies
- Prescription medicine
- Copies of important documents in a plastic/waterproof bag (driver’s license, insurance policies, bank/credit card information, medical information, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, family and other contact information).
- 3 day supply of non-perishable food and water
- Warm clothing, sturdy shoes/boots and blankets (at least three day supply)
- Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food and diapers)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food)
- Comfort items for children
- Extra cash

This flood preparation handout is provided only as a guide. For more information on emergency preparedness please visit FEMA’s (Federal Emergency Management Agency) website at: www.fema.gov. Questions can also be directed to Bob Van Lith, Emergency Management Coordinator, at 763 972-0581 or by e-mail: bvanlith@delano.mn.us.