

Be Prepared



Preparations can be made to ensure the safety of life and property before, during, and after a flood

Before:

- o Avoid building in a floodplain.
- o Investigate the feasibility and legality of constructing barriers (levees, berms, floodwalls) to stop water from entering your home.
- o Seal walls with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.
- o Create floodway openings, by using engineered flood vents, in non-habitable areas such as garages.
- o Know the difference between a flood watch and a flood warning. A watch means flooding is possible. A warning means flooding is occurring or will occur soon.
- o Be prepared! Pack a bag with important items in case you need to evacuate. Include a copy of your flood insurance policy. Don't forget to include essential medications and take appropriate steps to protect pets.
- o Designate a place where your family can meet after an evacuation order is lifted in case you get separated.
- o Sign up to receive severe weather and flooding alerts on your phone by texting: *follow BryanCountyEMA to 40404.*



When it comes to flooding, Bryan County wants you to Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Protected.

During:

o If a flood is likely in our area, listen to the radio, television or go online for information:

Radio: 89.1 FM | W206AT-KAWZ | KSVN - Hunter Army Airfield

Television: WTOC News at www.WTOC.com | WJCL at www.WJCL.com | WSAV at www.WSAV.com

o Place sand bags to reduce erosion and scouring.

o Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves and disconnect electrical appliances.

o Elevate furniture and electronics.

o If possible, bring in outdoor furniture and move essential items to an upper floor.

o If advised to evacuate your home, do so immediately.

o If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground.

o Do not walk through moving water. As little as 6 inches of moving water can make you fall.

o If you have to walk in water, wear rubber boots and walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

o Avoid outdoor floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage and may also be electrically charged from damaged utility lines and equipment. In addition, snakes and wildlife will be displaced from their regular habitats.

o Do not drive through standing water on roads or in parking lots. The average automobile can be swept off the road in 12 inches of moving water. Attempting to drive through water may stall your engine, with the potential to cause irreparable damage if you try to restart the engine. If you come upon a flooded street, take an alternate route. Remember **"TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN"**

After:

o Check local news or your utility's website for messages about the safety of your water supply.

o Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of an automobile.

o Stay away from downed power lines and damaged equipment, and report them to your power company.

o Return home only when you are advised by appropriate authorities that it is safe to do so. Never enter a property that has been determined to be unsafe.

o If you have experienced damage to your property, contact your insurance agent about filing a claim.

o Make sure you monitor local, state, and federal notices, especially if you have experienced severe damage. Information will be provided about potential assistance from local, state, and federal resources, including FEMA.

For more information visit:

www.bryancountyga.org/i-want-to/flood-protection

Follow us on:

