



## Preparing for the Next Flood

### A CHECKLIST FOR HOMEOWNERS

When you hear that there is a “Flood Watch” or a “Flood Warning” there’s only limited time for last minute preparations. This checklist helps you consider critical items in your home and the surrounding area to think about in advance of a flood situation so you can act quickly when a flood is about to hit.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- **Is my house in a floodplain**, and if so is it in danger of repetitive loss? Should the house be raised or “razed?”
- **Are there flood-proofing measures** that you could implement to reduce future losses?
- **Do I need flood insurance?** Check with town officials about the National Flood Insurance Program.

This list provides a good general outline and starting point for flood preparedness, but is not intended to be a comprehensive list. For additional resources refer to [www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org](http://www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org).

### IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

#### WELL BEFORE A FLOOD

- Prepare a written **flooding evacuation plan**
- Ensure **sump pump is adequate**, operational and has backup power source
- Cache **essentials & important items** that you can carry with you when moving to higher ground
- Have **flashlights and adequate drinking water storage containers** in case of power outage
- Minimize **items stored in basement**; elevate any items stored there. **No storage of toxics**. Make sure **fuse box, switches and outlets are accessible** during high water.

#### WHEN FLOODING IS IMMINENT

- **Fasten and sand bag bulkhead door**
- **Turn off furnace / boiler and electrical breakers**
- **Secure drinking water** for use after flood recedes

## IN YOUR YARD

### WELL BEFORE A FLOOD

- Keep **underground propane tanks** filled
- Do not store in your yard **items that could be carried away** or damaged; **anchor** remaining items
- Securely **anchor above ground propane tanks**
- Properly **maintain driveway and culverts** to reduce vulnerability to erosion

### WHEN FLOODING IS IMMINENT

- **Move vehicles** to higher ground
- **Check yard for any items** not already secured
- **Close valves on propane tanks**

## IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### WELL BEFORE A FLOOD

- **Check your town's emergency preparedness plans** and incorporate relevant info into your plans
- **Check any rock walls, vanes, grassed waterways** on your property to see if they are in proper repair.
- **Beware of sites (i.e. nearby culverts and bridges) where debris and /or ice jams can form** and exacerbate flooding
- **Talk to your neighbors** and exchange ideas about preparing for the next flood.

Consider the above items, and your own situation, and then prepare your individual plan. Practice and revise if necessary.

**BE PREPARED** By doing so you will save money, reduce stress and may even save your life.

## Emergency Numbers

Fire, Police, and Medical: *Dial 911*

State Police in Middlesex: *229-9191*

VTrans Road Conditions Hotline: *Dial 511*  
*www.511vt.com*

National Weather Service, Burlington VT:  
*802-862-2475*  
*www.erh.noaa.gov/er/btv*

United Way: *Dial 211*  
*Referral for emergency food and shelter,*  
*transportation, and more.*  
*www.vermont211.org*

FEMA Assistance: *800-621-3362*  
*www.fema.gov*

*Friends of the Mad River*



MORE INFO: **FRIENDSOFTHEMADRIVER.COM**