

## **FACT SHEET #4**

# **When Flooding Occurs Personal Safety Tips**

### **When flooding occurs, consider the following safety tips:**

- Floods can be slow or fast-rising, but generally develop over a period of hours or days
- Local officials will keep residents informed in the areas most likely to be affected by flooding
- Drive carefully – if you are planning to travel, know current highway conditions and any road closures. Check [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca) before you set off
- Don't drive through floodwater. Water can be deeper than it appears, and levels can rise very quickly
- If you are going to be camping or hiking, avoid small creeks and rivers as their channels tend to be narrow and can fill up quickly. Also, eroded banks result in unstable ground.
- Most importantly, keep children and pets away from stream banks
- Stay alert for changing conditions, particularly if you live in low-lying areas or near waterways
- Don't walk through water deeper than a few inches, as you could be swept off your feet. Watch for tripping hazards
- Always follow the instructions of local emergency officials
- Personal emergency preparedness information can be found on the web at: [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca)
- Have a personal emergency supply kit available containing food, water, important documents, prescription medications, a flashlight, first aid kit and battery-powered radio among other items
- If you live in a high-risk flood area, prepare your family for the possibility of evacuation
- Always listen for and follow the instructions of emergency officials
- Keep designated emergency response routes clear

### **Definitions**

A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that river levels are rising or are expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

A **Flood Watch** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed the riverbank. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded the riverbank or will exceed the riverbank imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.

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