



## **Hydraulic Risks Emergency instructions**

Remember that during floods, the water from rivers is very contaminated and transports dangerous rubble that can hurt or stun. Listen to the radio or watch the TV to find out the predictions for adverse weather conditions. Machines and other materials can temporarily and suddenly obstruct streets or passages: if it is still the early warning phase and it is not raining, go secure your automobile in an area that is inaccessible by the flood; the streets always become the routes in which the flood flows.

### **Before**

1. It is helpful to always have a flashlight and battery-powered radio handy, to tune into the news and listen to important information.
2. If you are in a place where the flood will not affect you, keep safe goods that are in areas that are at risk of flooding.
3. Be sure that all people that are at risk are current on the situation.
4. If you live in an area of high elevation, offer hospitality to those who live at lower levels and vice versa, if you live in lower areas ask for help.
5. Use a bulkhead to protect residences located on the ground floor and block the doors of cellars and basements.
6. If your home does not run the risk of flooding, stay in it.
7. Teach children the things to do in case of an emergency, like shutting off the gas and telephoning emergency numbers.

### **During (warning has been signaled or flood is in progress)**

1. Once the alarm goes off, focus on preparations or the event in progress.
2. It is essential to remember the difference between the pre-alarm and the alarm or event in progress, because the flood may be small and difficult to predict: if rain is concentrated in a small, restricted area, it may be enough to cause a sudden flood.

### **In the house**

1. Shut off the gas, heating and electrical installations. Make sure that wet hands and feet do not come into contact with electrical currents.
2. Go to upper floors without using an elevator.
3. Absolutely do not go into garages or basements to save anything.
4. Do not try to save your car or any other vehicles; there is a risk of a road being blocked and then being swept away by the current.
5. Avoid panicking and remain calm.
6. Help the disabled and elderly into your building and make sure they are safe.
7. Do not drink the water that leaks into your home: it could be contaminated.

## Outside the house

1. Avoid the use of automobiles unless it is absolutely necessary.
2. If you are in an automobile, do not try to go to your original destination, but instead try to find a nearby place that is safe.
3. Stay away from the banks of rivers, bridges and boardwalks.
4. Pay attention to underpasses: they can easily flood.
5. If you are traveling or on an excursion, trust the people in the area. They can know safe areas.
6. Try to go to elevated areas and do not go to lower-lying land.
7. Avoid going on natural and artificial slopes.
8. Do not take cover under isolated trees.
9. Use the phone only in cases of need to avoid overwhelming the phone lines.

## After

1. Go to the secure areas and pay close attention to the instructions given by the civil protection agency across the radio, TV, and street signs.
2. Avoid contact with water. Frequently, the water is contaminated with gas, oil or water from the sewers. It can also be electrically charged due to the presence of underground power lines.
3. Avoid areas where the current is still moving.
4. Pay attention to areas where the water is retreating. The foundation of the street could be weak and can collapse under the weight of a car.
5. Throw out food that has been in contact with water from the flood.
6. Pay attention to services, septic tanks and reservoirs that have been damaged. Exhaust systems that have been damaged are serious risk factors.

It is also useful to have a meeting point known by all members of the family, and to have the following things at home in case of an emergency:

1. First aid kit and medicine
2. General, nonperishable foods
3. Thick shoes
4. Supply of drinking water
5. Spare heavy clothing
6. Waterproof or waxed jacket
7. Flashlight with backup batteries
8. Radio with backup batteries
9. Multiuse knife
10. Photocopies of important documents, such as ID
11. Keys to the house
12. Valuables
13. Paper and pen