Know Your Risk and Stay Informed!

Know Your Zone: If you live close to the Fishkill Creek or the Hudson River, you may live in the flood zone and you should be prepared to secure your home and/or business and evacuate quickly. If you’re not sure if you are at risk, check the map in this guide. Flood maps are also available through the Beacon Building Department or are viewable online through Dutchess County ParcelAccess (https://gis.dutchessny.gov/parcelaccess/parcelaccess_map.htm).

Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response: In the case of serious and immediate emergencies, always contact 911 first. For other emergency information, contact the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response at (845) 486-2080.

New York Alert: You can sign up for the New York State notification system to receive phone calls or emails that will alert you to serious or emergency situations. Register at www.nyalert.gov.

Important Flood Terms You Should Know

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible.

Flood Warning: Flooding is occurring or will occur soon. If advised by officials to evacuate, do so immediately.

Flash Flood Warning: Unexpected flooding is imminent. Seek higher ground immediately. Two key elements contribute to flash floods: rainfall intensity, and length of time that it has been raining. Flash floods are the #1 weather-related killer in the United States.

100-Year Flood: We often hear the term 100-year flood, but what does it mean? A 100-year flood is an event that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, so it can happen two years in a row. A 100-year flood has a 25% chance of occurring over a 30 year period. If you live in the FEMA 100-year floodplain, you are at high risk of experiencing flooding and may be required to have flood insurance.

Finding Help

Emergency Shelters:
Fire Department Headquarters
425 Main Street
Beacon, NY
(845) 831-1334

Fire Dept. Station 1
57 E Main Street
Beacon, NY
(845) 831-0780

Fire Dept. Station 2
13 South Avenue
Beacon, NY
(845) 831-3516

Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
Beacon, NY
(845) 838-6900

For Pets:
Contact:
City Hall - (845) 838-5000
or
Dutchess Co. Clerk - (845) 486-2120

Debris Removal & Flood Recovery:
Contact City Hall
American Red Cross Repairing Your Flooded Home:

1) Before A Flood—Make A Plan
- Make an emergency evacuation & communication plan for family and pets, including identifying where you will meet in an emergency.
- Talk with your neighbors about emergency plans, especially for those with special needs.
- Know where you and your loved ones will stay if your home is flooded.
- Check with your insurance agency about buying a flood insurance policy. Homeowners insurance does not cover damage from flooding.
- Learn the safest route from home or work to higher ground or your emergency meeting spot. Keep a gas can filled for emergencies.
- Gather important documents, including a list of valuables, and keep it off site, or in a waterproof container in your emergency supply kit.

2) During A Flood—Be Ready to Act
- Stay informed by tuning into local radio, television and weather reports. Battery-operated radios are affordable and widely available.
- Disconnect appliances if it is safe. Don’t go into any room if water covers electrical outlets or power cords.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Be sure to lock your home.

3) After A Flood—Returning Home
- If advised to evacuate, wait until you are told it is safe before returning home.
- Stay informed—tune into local news for information on road closures, boil water alerts, etc.
- Exercise caution when entering flood-damaged buildings. Buildings may not be safe.
- If your home has been flooded
  - Do not turn on electrical appliances until checked by a licensed electrician.
  - Care should be taken to drain water gradually from the building to avoid structural damage.
  - Walls and floors should be disinfected or replaced to avoid growth of mold and mildew.
  - Well water should be tested for bacteria before drinking.

Flood Recovery References
This guide was produced using the following resources. Please visit these websites for more information on flood preparedness.

NY Extension Disaster Education Network: http://emergencypreparedness.cce.cornell.edu
National Weather Service Flood Safety: http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/
National Flood Insurance Program: https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/
NYS Office of Emergency Management: http://www.dhses.ny.gov/oem/ or prepare.ny.gov
First Steps to Flood Recovery: https://www.extension.purdue.edu/floodpub/
FEMA Flood Preparedness: http://www.ready.gov/floods
Disaster Preparedness and Pets: http://wmdart.org/pet-preparedness/
American Red Cross Repairing Your Flooded Home: http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4540081_repairingFloodedHome.pdf

The 1, 2, 3 of Flood Preparedness

Assemble A Flood Emergency Kit

First Aid & Medications
- a week’s supply of prescription medications
- non-prescription medication
- first aid kit
- hand sanitizer & hand wipes

Food & Provisions
- soup & toiletries
- change of clothing

- rain gear
- sturdy shoes
- sleeping bag and bedding
- food & provisions for all family members, including pets
- extra pair of glasses and/or contact lenses

Emergency Communications
- battery-powered radio with fresh batteries
- cell phone & charger
- whistle to signal for help
- flashlight with fresh batteries

Important Contacts & Documents
- a list of family physicians and important medical information
- photocopies of important documents, including homeowners insurance
- identification cards, credit cards, cash & checks

Prepare Your Home
If you live in a high-flood risk area:
- Elevate your furnace, water heater, electrical panel and other utilities. Secure propane, kerosene & oil tanks.
- Stow or secure lawn mowers, barbecue grills & other items that may be carried away by floodwaters if your area is under flood warning.
- Store cleaning supplies and other hazardous materials up high so they will not be carried away by flood waters.
- Install check valves to prevent water from backing up drains.
- Have emergency waterproofing supplies, such as sandbags, and know how you can install them quickly, easily and effectively.

Securing Boats and Personal Watercraft (PWC) for a Flood Event
- Remove sails, flags, and secure everything exposed to wind and use additional lines to secure the vessel.
- Boats and PWC stored in low lying areas adjacent to the water should also be secured in place, both when trailered and set on stands, as elevated water levels and wind conditions may shift and damage boats that are ashore, but in a flood zone.
- Floating docks are relatively safe from floodwaters, as long as the poles retaining the docks are of sufficient height to accommodate the added elevation of the surge.

Alerts, Warnings, Evacuations
- Do not drive into floodwaters. Two feet of water will carry your car away. Turn around—don’t drown!
- Do not stand on bridges or near the shore during a flood.
- Do not sightsee during a flood! You could put yourself and others in danger.
- Floodwater may be contaminated. Do not wade or swim in it!

Preparedness Tip of the Day
- Don’t drown! The 1, 2, 3 of Flood Preparedness—stay informed, make a plan, be ready, and know what to do if affected by a flood.

Flood Recovery References

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