



**City of Beacon**  
**Flood Preparedness Guide**  
**for Residents and Businesses**

One of the wonderful things about living in the City of Beacon is being near the water. The Hudson River and Fishkill Creek are part of what makes Beacon such a special place. But, the river and the creek put some areas of the city at risk of flooding.

Flooding is not just a problem for people who live near the water. All residents should be aware of risks and know how to find information and help when flooding occurs. Whether you live in the flood zone or not, being prepared for an emergency is important. Keep this guide handy so you know where to find help if you need it.

Produced with assistance from:



**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](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](http://www.nyalert.gov)

**Emergency Contacts**

*Write important contact numbers here:*

- Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_ **911 or (845) 831-1334**
- Police Department \_\_\_\_\_ **911 or (845) 831-4111**
- City Hall \_\_\_\_\_ **(845) 838-5000**
- Insurance Agent \_\_\_\_\_
- Plumber \_\_\_\_\_
- Heating Contractor \_\_\_\_\_
- Electrician \_\_\_\_\_
- Landlord \_\_\_\_\_

**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

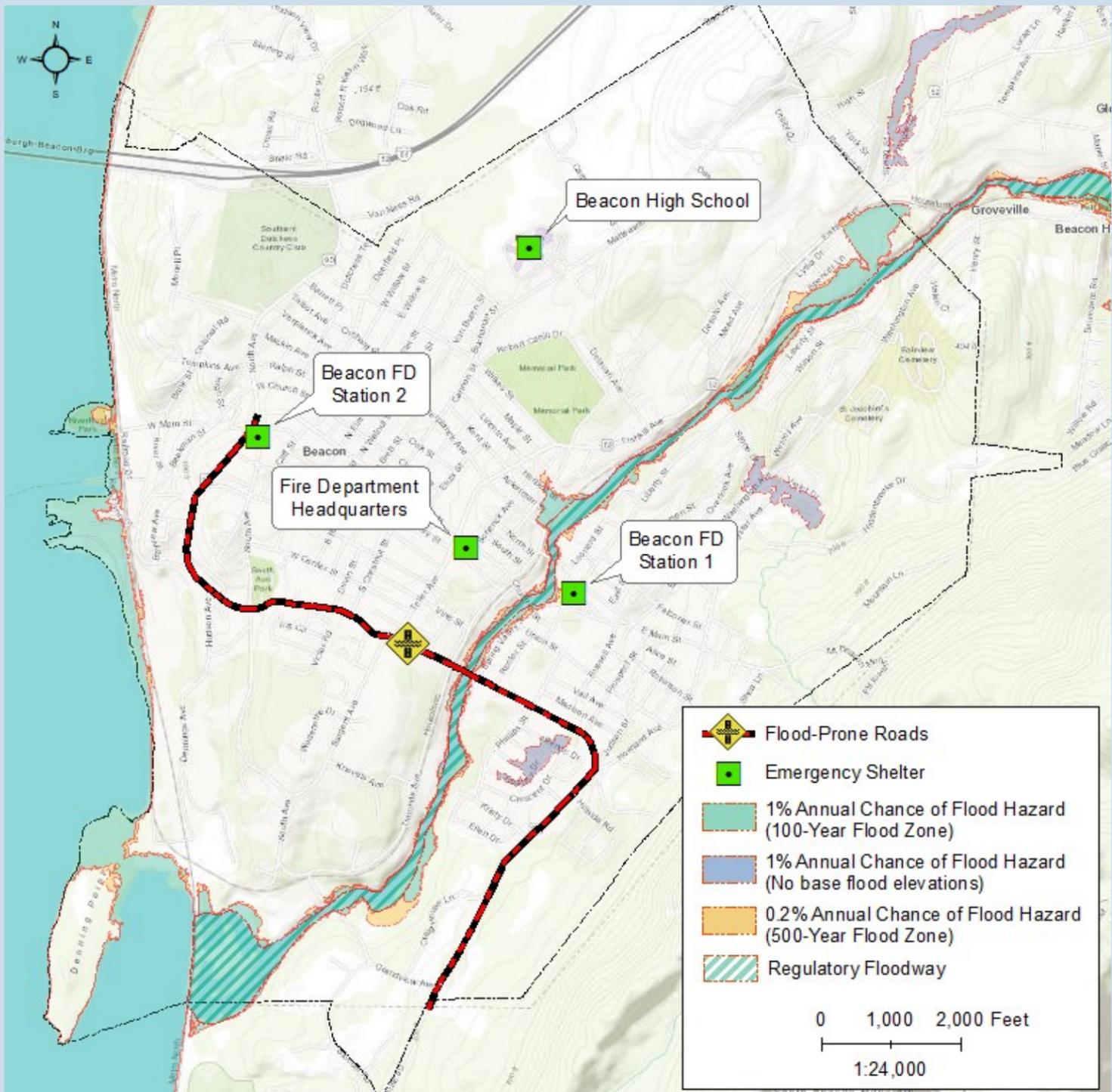
Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
Beacon, NY  
(845) 838-6900

**For Pets:**

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

**Debris Removal & Flood Recovery:**

*Contact City Hall*



# The 1, 2, 3 of Flood Preparedness

## 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.

### 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

- soap & 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, barbeque 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.

## 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.

### **BEWARE OF FLOODWATER!**

**If your house is surrounded by floodwater, move to the highest possible point and call 911.**

**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!**

## 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](http://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](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4540081_repairingFloodedHome.pdf)