

## During a flood – Tips for residents

### If a flood warning has been issued:

- Monitor local media including the City's [website](#), Twitter (@citymississauga) and Facebook [feeds](#) for updates on the situation.
- Have a battery or crank radio in case of power loss.
- If your home has a sump pump, ensure that it is in good working order. If it requires electricity to operate, ensure that you have a back-up power supply.
- Gas powered generators must only be operated **outside** the home.
- Clear eavestroughs of leaves, snow and ice.
- Divert downspouts 2 metres or 6 feet away from your home.
- Clear snow and ice 2 metres or 6 feet away from your foundation.
- Ensure that vehicles have fuel in case of evacuation. Park them at a higher elevation.
- Move valuables to a higher area or another floor
- Locate materials and be ready to close basement water supply valves and plug basement toilet bowls and drains
- Pre-arrange for shelter for your family and any pets should you be evacuated from your home
- Keep drains around your property including roadside catch basin inlets free from debris
- Report any blocked storm drains to 3-1-1.
- Check that drainage around your home flows away from your foundations including your roof downspouts.
- Be aware of and identify all electrical hazards in and around your house and basement including outlets, power bars, extension cords etc.
- Know where to find your home insurance information and what your coverage is. Keep it with you.
- If available, locate and stockpile sandbags to be used around doors and windows to prevent water from entering your home
- Contact your utility to find out how to shut off the power, furnace, outside gas valves and water supply in your home

**If Flooding is occurring:**

The degree of flooding will determine if your family needs to stay at home or evacuate.

Flood updates will be available by calling 311 or on the City's home page ([link to City Alerts](#)).

In case of a power outage, you can monitor local media using a crank or battery radio or television for latest updates.

**Tips for residents:****1. Stay Informed**

- Monitor local media and the City's [website](#), Twitter (@citymississauga) and Facebook [feeds](#) for updates on the situation. Have a battery or crank radio in case of power loss.
- Listen for updates on the situation and be prepared to follow instructions from Emergency Management Authorities.
- If you have a family Flood Plan, begin to implement the provisions.
- Stay tuned to local media and City web sites and social media for updates
- If flooding is occurring in your area, listen to local media reports for updated information.

**2. Maintain safety**

- Maintain the safety of your family and yourself as a first priority
- Watch for warning signs: increased height of streams and speed of water flows in local creeks or on roadways, look for debris in creeks, colour changes in water or leaning trees.
- Check on elderly or disabled neighbours to ensure that they are aware of the flood threat.
- If the area around the main electrical panel is dry and can be reached safely, shut off the main electrical switch if water is approaching the furnace or any electrical outlets, cords or appliances.
- Check for electrical, natural gas and safety hazards before entering any flooded area
- Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or are in standing water
- If it is still safe to enter your basement, wear rubber boots and ensure that your home's sump pump has power and is not blocked ensure that pump discharge is located more than 2 metres from your foundation. Be ready to switch to your back-up power supply.
- Gas powered generators must only be operated outside the home.
- If power fails or is shut off, switch the sump pump to your back-up power supply.

- Do not open taps, flush toilets or use dishwashers or washing machines
- Do not open manhole covers or catch basins on the street

### **3. Preparing to leave - Secure your home for evacuation**

- Gather your family and your flood kit
- If available, place sandbags around doors and windows to prevent water from entering your home
- Do not walk or drive through moving water and stay away from creeks, rivers and their crossings
- For any travel during flooding events, bring your flood kit and follow approved detour routes only.
- If an evacuation is ordered, follow instructions and leave when requested to do so. Remaining behind can risk your loved-ones and emergency responders who attempt to rescue you later.
- If possible, shut off electricity and gas before leaving the house.

### **What about the Utilities in my home?**

Know where and how to shut off utilities, if safe to do so, if flooding threatens your home, but water has not yet entered the building. **Do not enter a flooded basement to shut off power.**

Call 311 and contact your local utilities if flood waters have entered your basement.