



Vol XXXX Issue 3
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Rising Water

In the restoration industry, one of the terms that gets used frequently is flood. Flood by definition is “an overflowing of a large amount of water beyond its normal confines, especially over what is normally dry land”. It is also defined as “to cover or submerge (a place or area) with water”. With the different interpretations, flood can mean different things to different people. For the purposes of this article, we are going to refer to flood as the overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry.

Floods can happen in different ways, during heavy rains, when ocean wave come ashore, when snow melts too fast, or when dams or levees break. Flooding may happen with only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. They can occur quickly or over a long period of time, lasting days, weeks or longer. Floods are the most common and widespread or all weather-related natural disasters. Flash floods are the number one weather related killer in the United States. According to FEMA 99% of the counties in the United States have been impacted by a flooding event during the years of 1996-2019. Also according to FEMA, the average flood claim payout from the National Flood Insurance Program in 2019 was \$52,000. Below are tips from Ready.gov on what to do in preparation for a flood, surviving a flood, and being safe after a flood.

Preparing before a flood:

- Know the types of flood risk in your area, and visit FEMA’s Flood Map Service Center for information.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.
- Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately, or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person’s specific needs, including medication. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.
- Sign up for your community warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Purchase or renew flood insurance policy. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect. Homeowner’s policies do not cover flooding, but you can get coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container.
- Protect you property by moving valuables to a higher level. Also declutter drains, gutters and consider a battery operated sump pump.

Surviving during a flood

- Depending on where you are, the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you previously identified.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Never drive around barricades as local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn around, don’t drown.
- If trapped in a building, then go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic as you may become trapped by the rising flood water. Go on the roof only if necessary and once there signal for help.

Be safe after a flood

- Listen to authorities for information and instructions. Only return home when authorities say it is safe.
- Be aware of electrocution and do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.
- Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed powerlines can also electrically charge the water.
- Check for structural damage before entering the home or building.

Until next time my friends be prepared and stay safe!

- Events**
- March 3: IREM Luncheon
 - March 3-4: TASBO Mide Winter Conference
 - March 4: IFMA Luncheon
 - March 5: ACA Luncheon
 - March 6: CE Class
 - March 18: BOMA SA Luncheon
 - March 18: IIASA Luncheon
 - March 19: SAABE Luncheon
 - March 26: IWSA Luncheon

March 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 IREM Luncheon	4 IFMA Luncheon	5 ACA Luncheon	6 CE Class	7
8	9	10 -----TASBO Mid Winter Conference-----	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 SABOMA Luncheon IIASA Luncheon	19 SAABE Luncheon	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 IWSA Luncheon	27	28
29	30	31				

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