

What should I do when I hear a Flood Warning?

Heavy rains can bring flash flooding and flood conditions can mean we could be exposed to dangers. Water Safety Ireland (www.watersafety.ie) have important advice for you. For example, if you are attempting to cross fast moving water, you should be aware that it can exert pressure of up to four times it's speed against your legs. The deeper a person becomes immersed in water, the less a person weighs so the more difficult it is to remain upright. Never put your feet down if swept away in floodwater, because your feet and body could become trapped or pinned down and you could drown.

People travelling in cars need to be particularly careful to avoid flooded areas on roads, but particularly near rivers. Especially at night or in poor light, it is not always possible to know how deep the flooding is. Fast moving water will carry cars and other vehicles away and possibly lead to drownings.



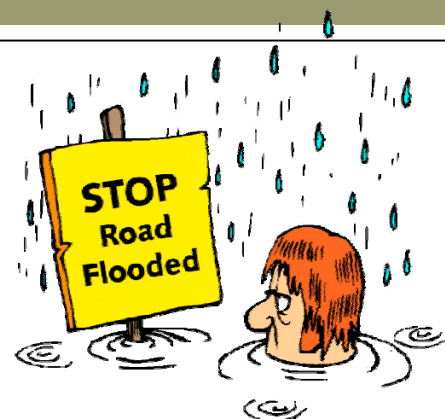
You might be curious when there is flooding about you but you and those looking after you should be cautious as floodwater can hide the true depth. Manhole covers may also be open and small streams when swollen are very fast and deeper than normal.

What should people do when they hear a Flood Warning?

- Listen to the national and local radio for Met Éireann updates and AA Roadwatch updates.
- Check on neighbours particularly if they are elderly, infirmed or families with young children.
- Move vehicles to higher ground
- Move animal stock to higher ground
- Check small craft to ensure they are well secured or moored.
- Make sure you have warm clothes, food, drink, a torch and radio.
- Block doorways and airbricks with sandbags or plastic bags filled with earth. Floodgate products will work effectively also.
- Switch off gas and electricity supplies if flooding is imminent.
- Check the time of high water in the newspaper or online.



This information is courtesy of Water Safety Ireland. For further information on water safety visit: www.watersafety.ie



Personal Safety

- Avoid flood waters.
- Carry a mobile phone at all times in case you need to call for help – call 112 or 999 in emergency.
- Wear suitable protective clothing & a lifejacket in on or around water.
- Avoid fast flowing water.
- Never put your feet down if swept away by fast flowing waters.
- Flooding on roads will be deeper at dips and around bridges.
- Stay away from sea and flood defences.
- When walking or driving, be aware of manhole covers and gratings that may have been moved due to the heavy flow of water.
- Take care when using electric appliances in damp or flood conditions.
- Remember that during the hours of darkness the dangers are multiplied.

After the flood

- Avoid eating food that has been in contact with flood water.
- Run water for a few minutes and wash your taps.
- Check gas and electricity supply.
- Leave wet electrical equipment alone to dry and have it checked prior to use.
- Ventilate your property well.
- Check out www.Flooding.ie for more detail on general flooding.
- Check on elderly neighbours.

