



**Arkadelphia**  
**BUILDING DEPT.**

**Flood Safety Tips**

# Flood Safety Tips

How to protect yourself outside and inside your home.

## OUTSIDE

### 1 Don't walk through flowing water.

Drowning is the #1 cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet! If you have to walk through flooded waters, use a pole or stick to ensure the ground is still there before you walk through.

### 2 Don't drive through a flooded area.

More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed away. A car can float in as little as 2 feet of water. Turn around, don't drown!

### 3 Stay away from power lines & electrical wires.

The #2 flood killer is electrocution. Electrical currents can travel through water. Help save lives by reporting downed power lines to Entergy at 800.968.8243.



## INSIDE

### 1 Turn off your electricity if your building is flooded.

If you don't feel safe doing this, call an electrician. Some appliances, such as television sets, can shock you even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, dried and inspected by a professional.

### 2 Watch for animals.

Small animals, like rats and snakes, that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn items over and scare small animals away.

### 3 Look before you step.

After a flood, the ground and floors are often covered with debris - including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can also be very slippery.

### 4 Be alert for gas leaks.

Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been thoroughly aired out. If you have questions on gas, call CenterPoint Entergy at 800.992.7552.

### 5 Remember: Carbon monoxide exhaust kills.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Fumes from charcoal are especially deadly - Cook with charcoal outdoors.

### 6 Clean everything that got wet.

Flood waters have picked up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories and storage buildings. Spoiled food and flooded cosmetics and medicines are health hazards. When in doubt, throw them out!

# Are you prepared for a flood in your neighborhood?

A look back at our history and how you can protect yourself moving forward.

## The flood of 1927

The most notable flooding in Arkadelphia and Clark County took place in April 1927 when the river rose to 23-feet. Since then, the construction of three dams on the upper Ouachita River has helped alleviate flooding in recent years. It is critical to remember the City of Arkadelphia is still subject to flooding from the Ouachita River, Maddox Branch or Millcreek Branch. Arkadelphia is also subject to flash flooding from torrential rains.

## What should you do before a flood?

Determine if your property is located in an area subject to flooding. A property locating within a flood zone doesn't necessarily have flooding problems. Upon request, the Building Department will make free flood zone determinations for properties within city limits. FEMA maps are also available in the Clark County Public Library. If located in an "A" or "AE" zone, your property is located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), which is an area that has been determined to have the potential for flooding caused by a 100-year flood. The Building Department also maintains elevation certificates for many properties within the city, which are available for review.

## Retrograde, mitigate or protect property from flood hazards

If the floor level of your property or outside machinery - such as HVAC units - is lower than the "Base Flood Elevation" (elevation of the 100-year flood based on the FEMA maps) consider elevating your structure. If flooding is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages. City of Arkadelphia officials will make visits to provide one-on-one advice to a property owner regarding flooding and drainage issues on private property. Contact us to learn more.

## Flood Insurance

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner's insurance policy. Renter's insurance does not cover flood claims. A separate flood insurance policy is required to cover damages incurred by flooding. Coverage is available for the building as well as for the contents of the building. The City of Arkadelphia participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) and in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes available federally backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not they are located within the floodplain. There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.

The discount for our current CRS Class 8 rating entitles residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) to a 10 percent discount on their flood insurance premiums. More than 40 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside the 100-year floodplain, also known as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Contact your insurance agency for more information. Flood information is also available at Town Hall and the Clark County Public Library.

**For more information on flood safety or the NFIP, visit:**

[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
[www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-layer](http://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-layer)  
<http://water.weather.gov>



# Understanding Floodplains

How to protect your home and property.

**Whether you live in a floodplain or not, everyone is at risk of flood damage. Just one-inch of water can cause up to \$25,000 in damage.**

Did you know most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage?

Most policies typically cover water damage caused from a problem inside the home, like a burst pipe. Flood insurance is mandatory if your property is located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. To add flood insurance to your policy, contact your insurance agent. Keep in mind, there is usually a 30-day waiting period before your National Flood Insurance Policy (NFIP) goes into effect. Don't wait- Call today!

## How to protect your home from flood damage

### OUTSIDE

- Maintain proper runoff and drainage outside your home.
- Improve lot grading.
- Retain, create natural greenspace outside of home.
- Install a rain barrel.
- Elevate utilities and service equipment.
- Anchor outdoor fuel tanks.

### INSIDE

- Store important documents, possessions in watertight containers.
- Seal foundation & basement walls.
- Install flood vents.
- Install a sump pump.
- Prevent sewer backups.
- Raise electrical system components.
- Anchor indoor fuel tanks.
- Install a flood alert system.

**Questions? Contact us!**

870.246.1818



Facts & Figures sourced from:

**FEMA**

# Turn Around, Don't Drown!

Understanding the dangers of flash flooding.

## Did you know...

- 6 inches of water can make a car float.
- 12 inches of water can carry most cars downstream.
- 24 inches of water can carry most trucks & SUVs downstream.

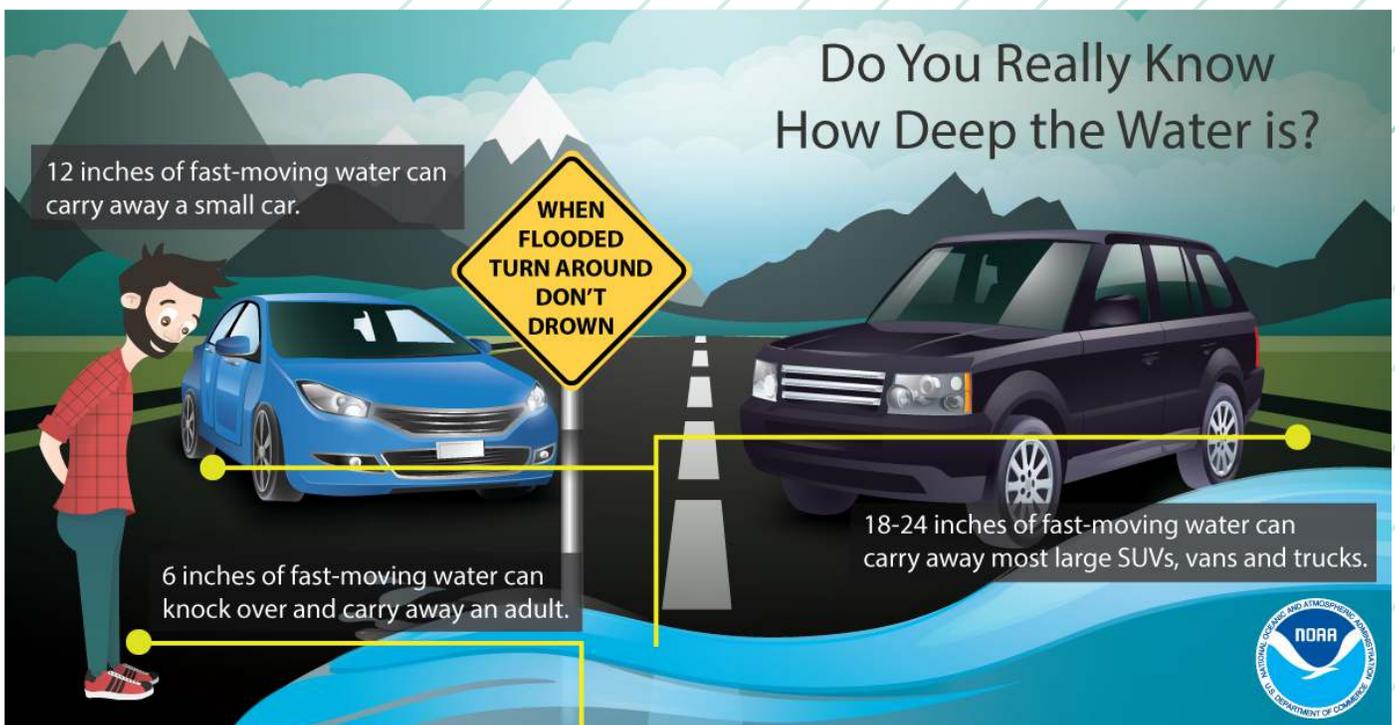
Protect yourself and others.

## TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!

Most people underestimate the power of moving water. This leads to hundreds of accidents, injuries and deaths per year. If you see moving water on the road in front of you...

### TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!

Road beds may be washed out under flood waters, tree limbs, debris or other large objects could be just under the surface. Whenever you see standing water in the road, turn around and rely on an alternate route to get you to your destination.





# Arkadelphia

## **BUILDING DEPT.**

*700 Clay Street // Arkadelphia, AR // 71923*  
*870.246.1818 // [DeAnna.Graves@arkadelphia.gov](mailto:DeAnna.Graves@arkadelphia.gov)*