



MINNEHAHA CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

# FLOOD RESPONSE ROLES AND RESOURCES




Floods are the most common natural disasters in the U.S.

Flooding can happen quickly or develop slowly over several days, but when flooding happens, it can impact us all. That's why preparing for flood emergencies is not the responsibility of just one agency, but a duty shared by a whole community of actors.

## What can you do to prepare for a flood?

- ▶ **Know your risk.** Understand your property's flood risk by consulting available local, county, or federal tools, such as FEMA floodplain maps. Depending on your risk, you may want to enroll your property in the National Flood Insurance Program. Learn more about flood insurance: [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).
- ▶ **Flood-proof your property.** There are many ways you can make your home more resilient! Installing a sump pump, backflow prevention devices, rain gardens, or improving drainage with flood-friendly landscaping can all reduce the impact of flooding on your property.
- ▶ **Prepare a family disaster plan.** Have a plan when disaster strikes! Make sure you understand where to go and what to bring. Consider having a go-kit ready in case of evacuation.
- ▶ **Stay informed.** Follow official alerts and instructions from local officials. Monitor National Weather Service watches and warnings, city and county emergency communications, and check out MCWD's Water Level Updates for insights on rising water levels and flood risk.

 Real-time water levels for Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek are available online at [minnehahacreek.org/water-levels](http://minnehahacreek.org/water-levels)



The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District uses data from Hennepin County West Mesonet and National Weather Service forecasts to understand and predict changing water levels and operate Gray's Bay Dam to reduce flooding on Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek.

## Resources from Local Officials

During a flood event, look to your municipality and county for emergency resources.



### Emergency Communications

During a flood, watch for key communications from your county and city, which may include information on ongoing flood risk, mitigation resources, road closures, and evacuation routes.



### Equipment and Supplies

Your county and city will deploy flood mitigation equipment and supplies as available. Connect with your municipality for sandbags, pumps, and other supplies to help you protect your property.



### Stormwater Infrastructure

Municipalities manage stormwater infrastructure, which helps move stormwater off the landscape and away from your property. Keep the storm drains near you clean and clear so they can do their job.



## Turn Around, Don't Drown®

Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters. It takes just 6 inches of fast moving water to knock over an adult, and 12 inches to carry away most cars.

## Recovery

State and Federal agencies can provide disaster declarations to make recovery assistance programs available to those affected.

If you're affected by a flood disaster, document damages thoroughly to support insurance claims and applications for assistance. Your county or municipality can help you with these applications and determine whether any permits are necessary for repairing your property after a flood.

## Other Resources on Flooding:

National Weather Service: [www.weather.gov/safety/flood](http://www.weather.gov/safety/flood)

Hennepin County Emergency Management: [www.hennepincounty.gov/government/projects-initiatives/emergencies/emergency-management](http://www.hennepincounty.gov/government/projects-initiatives/emergencies/emergency-management)

Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov/flood-maps](http://www.fema.gov/flood-maps)

MN Department of Natural Resources - Floodplain Management: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/floods](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/floods)