



NUMBERS TO CONTACT

Mobile phones emergency - 112
 Police and fire - 10111
 Ambulance - 10177
 Disaster Management - 0800 222 111

Disaster management is everybody's business. In case of any Disaster, members of the public are encouraged to report any incident to their district offices or provincial disaster management centre on the toll free number 0800 222 111



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
 CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,
 HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS



FLOOD AWARENESS

The Heartland of Southern Africa - development is about people!

WHAT ARE FLOODS?

Floods refer to excessive water run-off or the rise in water level in a particular area which is more than the particular environment can absorb or carry. Floods can be caused by either too much rain in a short space of time (for example cloud bursts), continuous rain in the same area, blockages in rivers and streams (such as rubble or landslides), failure in dam walls and levies, storm surges (for instance, waves being driven ashore by strong winds) or the excessive release of water from dams and lakes. It is normally the prolonged period of rainfall which gives us a good indication of a possible flood.

TWO KEY ELEMENTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO FLOODING

Rainfall intensity (the rate of rainfall)

Duration (how long the rain lasts)

FLOOD WARNINGS

Warnings of possible floods are normally communicated by your local weather office or disaster risk management centre. If you think a flood might occur in your area be sure to regularly listen to the radio and/or TV, or contact your nearest weather office. Also be aware of local disaster risk management officials making neighborhood calls through loud speakers. A warning is only as good as your reaction to it.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT A FLOOD MIGHT OCCUR?

- When it normally your rainy season
- When there are severe inland thunderstorms or storms over the sea
- Previous rains have saturated the soil and another storm is threatening
- There is excessive rainfall over a short period of time
- When the ground cannot absorb the amount of water quickly enough
- The water level in rivers and dams rise suddenly
- There might be snow in the mountains which could melt once spring approaches



- You experience Gail force winds and/or high swells on the coastal areas
- More and more green areas are developed into urban centers (which decreases the environment's absorption capacity)

WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING FLOOD?

- Listen continuously to the radio or television for updated emergency information.
- Everybody in an area should be ready to respond and act quickly.
- Be alert to signs of flooding, and if you live in a flood-prone area, be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Follow the instructions and advice of local authorities.
- Never attempt to cross the flooded river with or without a vehicle.
- Never drive through the bridge when the bridge is submerged into water.
- Avoid open and partially closed storm water drainage system.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER FLOOD?

- Seek necessary medical care at the nearest hospital or clinic. Contaminated flood waters lead to a greater possibility of infection.
- Help a neighbour who may require special assistance – infants, elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance.
- Avoid disaster areas.

HOW DO I SAFEGUARD MYSELF AND MY FAMILY?

- Never try to walk, swim, drive, or play in flood water.
- Watch out for snakes in areas that were flooded.
- Stay away from stream banks in flooded and recently flooded areas.
- Never play around high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines or culverts.