

BEFORE & DURING COASTAL FLOODING

Homeowner preparation and safety checklist | Newport Beach and Coastal Orange County

1. Check current conditions

- ☐ Check National Weather Service coastal flood warnings and advisories.
- ☐ Check NOAA tide forecasts and high-surf conditions.
- ☐ Follow City of Newport Beach emergency announcements.
- ☐ Check for evacuation instructions, road closures and beach restrictions.
- ☐ Identify a safe evacuation route and an alternate route.
- ☐ Leave early if officials direct you to evacuate or conditions worsen.

2. Protect your home before water arrives

- ☐ Move vehicles to higher ground before streets flood.
- ☐ Move electronics, documents and valuables above possible flood levels.
- ☐ Relocate vulnerable items from garages and ground-level storage.
- ☐ Secure patio furniture, trash bins and loose outdoor objects.
- ☐ Clear debris from accessible private drains when safe.
- ☐ Use appropriate temporary flood barriers or sandbags only if safe and suitable.
- ☐ Close accessible windows, doors and garage doors.
- ☐ Photograph the home and belongings before the storm.
- ☐ Know where electrical and utility shutoffs are located. Never enter water to reach them.
- ☐ Stop property-protection work when water approaches or evacuation is needed.

3. Prepare family members and pets

- ☐ Account for everyone and identify a safe meeting place.
- ☐ Tell a trusted contact where you plan to go.
- ☐ Pack prescription medications, medical equipment and supplies.
- ☐ Pack identification, keys, wallet and important documents.
- ☐ Charge phones, power banks and necessary medical-device batteries.
- ☐ Pack flashlights, a battery-powered radio and spare batteries.
- ☐ Pack drinking water, shelf-stable food, clothing and hygiene supplies.
- ☐ Prepare pet carriers, leashes, food, medications and identification.
- ☐ Arrange help for household members who may need assistance evacuating.

4. Gather insurance information

- ☐ Locate homeowners and flood insurance policy documents.

- ☐ Save insurer phone numbers, policy numbers and claims contacts.
- ☐ Keep digital copies of documents in a secure location.
- ☐ Photograph valuable belongings and major appliances.
- ☐ Take important documents with you or place them in waterproof storage.
- ☐ Do not assume a new flood policy will cover an approaching storm; waiting periods may apply.

5. Ten-minute departure plan

- ☐ Minutes 0–2: Gather family and pets, put on sturdy shoes, check safe exit route.
- ☐ Minutes 2–4: Collect bags, medications, IDs, keys, phones and pet supplies.
- ☐ Minutes 4–6: Close accessible doors/windows only if it will not delay departure.
- ☐ Minutes 6–8: Leave by a safe route and follow emergency instructions.
- ☐ Minutes 8–10: Reach safety, contact your emergency contact, account for everyone.
- ☐ Leave sooner if needed. Never wait for the ten-minute plan when an evacuation is ordered.
- ☐ If routes are flooded, do not cross the water. Seek safer elevation and request help.

6. During active flooding

- ☐ Stay away from beaches, seawalls, flooded streets and breaking-wave areas.
- ☐ Never walk, swim or drive through floodwater.
- ☐ Keep children and pets away from water and damaged areas.
- ☐ Avoid garages, basements and low-lying enclosed spaces.
- ☐ Do not touch wet electrical equipment or submerged utility shutoffs.
- ☐ Follow police, fire and emergency management instructions.
- ☐ Monitor official alerts from a safe location.
- ☐ Do not return until authorities indicate the area is safe.

Official resources: newportbeachca.gov | weather.gov/sgx | tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov | ready.gov/floods | floodsmart.gov

Safety note: Follow official emergency instructions. This checklist is general educational information, not a substitute for emergency services, professional inspections or individual insurance advice.