

# ***SAWYER COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES***

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## **MARCH 18-22 MARKS FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK**

*Residents reminded to take steps to stay safe during flooding events*

Sawyer County— During Flood Safety Awareness Week, Sawyer County Health and Human Services Public Health is reminding residents on how to stay safe during flooding events.

“Wisconsin has seen a great deal of precipitation this winter, and we are expecting flooding this spring when melting occurs,” said Eileen Simak, Sawyer County Health Officer. “It’s important for residents to prepare now before flooding starts.”

Follow these tips to prepare **before a flood**:

- **Stock an emergency supply kit.** Kits should include a three-day supply of food and water, cell phone and charger, flashlight and batteries, can opener, first aid kit, extra cash, and a change of clothes.
- **Move electronics off the floor.** If there is an active flood warning, move electric appliances off the floor and make sure your sump pump is working and has a battery-operated backup.
- **Consider adding flood insurance.** Standard insurance policies generally don’t cover flooding. Flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters, and business owners through the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).

Follow these tips **during and after a flood**:

- **Do not drive through flood waters.** It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a car. When you encounter flood water, turn around, don’t drown.
- **Stay out of flood waters.** Flood water can contain bacteria, sewage, sharp objects, and other dangerous items.
- **Drain basements slowly.** Basements containing standing water should be emptied gradually – no more than 2-3 inches per day. If a basement is drained too quickly, the water pressure outside the walls will be greater than the water pressure inside, which may cause the basement floor and walls to crack and collapse.

- **Shut off electrical power if you suspect damage to your home.** Even if the damage isn't easily seen, shut off electrical power, natural gas and propane tanks to avoid fire, electrocution, or explosions.
- **Use battery-powered lanterns to light homes rather than candles.** Candles could trigger an explosion if there is a gas leak.

**Recommended flood resources:**

\* **New 2019 Flood Toolkit Available on Sawyer County Website:** <http://sawyercountygov.org>

FEMA: <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

Flood Toolkit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00631.pdf>

Informational link to CDC: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.asp>

Wisconsin Resources: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/flood/index.htm>

Contact for additional information:

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