

April 7, 2016

## Floods and Flash Floods

Many areas in Texas have a long history of being vulnerable to flash flooding. Although we don't generally work when it is flooding it is important from a family and outside of work perspective to remember the following tips on dealing with flooding and flash floods.

- **NEVER** drive or walk into water that is flowing across low water crossings, bridges or roadways. Remember... **Turn around – Don't drown!**
- Don't play in or try to swim in fast flowing water in creeks, culverts, or near storm drains.
- If you drive around a barricade set up at low water crossings or flooded areas you may be subject to a \$200 fine.
- Many low lying areas especially creeks and rivers are subject to quickly rising water with little notice.
- Avoid travel during severe weather especially at night when visibility is very restricted.
- Stay tuned to radio or TV for severe weather and evacuation information and pay attention to any instructions given on the broadcasts.
- Have a plan for getting back together in case family members are separated during a flood. Establish a pre-arranged meeting place in the event you are separated.
- Take measures to protect priceless personal items from floodwaters. Such as:
  - Placing them in a safe deposit box at a bank or Credit Union
  - Placing them in a waterproof container and securing the container in an accessible safe place
- 1. If you are advised to evacuate an area or your home, do so immediately. Take with you the following items:
  - First aid kit
  - Driver's license or other form of identification
  - Money and/or credit cards
  - Prescription medications
  - Other items such as diapers or clothing, eye glasses, etc. depending on family needs

**As a reminder**...normal home insurance does not cover damages resulting from floods. If you live in an area subject to flooding you should consider purchasing FEMA backed flood insurance. Your personal insurance agent can help you with this. To determine if your home is located in a flood zone you can call your local city/county offices and obtain that information for free.

Remember: Planning is critical to minimizing losses during flood events. Pay attention to the weather and be prepared!