

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: February 21, 2018 **END DATE:** April 1, 2018

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RE: Flood Safety Tips

With the recent weather trends of extreme snow and ice storms followed by phases of warming temperatures and the increase in rainfall, it is important to be prepared for a flood. Flooding is a serious safety hazard year round and is one of the top 5 hazards in Genesee County. Being aware and being prepared for emergency flood events is vital to the health and safety of both the individual and the community.

Floods can be local, impacting individual homes, neighborhoods and communities, or they can impact large river basins affecting multiple states. Floods can occur no matter where you live, but low-lying areas, those close to waterways and downstream from dams, are particularly vulnerable. Floods can present themselves in many ways, developing slowly or rapidly as in a flash flood.

Regardless of whether you feel you live in an area with low flood risk, it is important to remember that any place can be impacted by a flood, so being aware and being prepared is essential for everyone's health and safety. To prepare for a flood, it is important to assemble an emergency kit and establish an emergency family communications plan. You should also have plans for evacuating your home or for sheltering-in-place. When a flood occurs, listening to authorities and safety officials will help you and your family stay safe. Other important flood safety tips to be aware of include:

- **Do not** walk through moving water; 6" of water could make you fall.
- **Do not** drive through standing water on roads or in parking lots.
- If there is any possibility of a flash flood, immediately move to higher ground.
- If you experience flooding in your home, discard or disinfect everything that got wet because flood waters could be contaminated with sewage, toxins or chemicals. At home, throw away any food that may have come in contact with flood water or debris.
- If you need to use a generator, never use it indoors or in an enclosed space such as a basement or garage.

Knowing your risks, being prepared and taking action will help to lessen the threat of flooding hazards. The Genesee County Health Department would like to remind residents to be safe and be prepared for flooding in your area, and we encourage you to expand your understanding of how to recognize and respond to this natural disaster. For more information about flood safety, preparedness, and recovery visit, www.ready.gov/floods.

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