



# FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS

Red Cliff is dedicated to the safety and well-being of tribal and community members. Flooding from melting snow or heavy rain is one of the most common and most costly natural hazards in Wisconsin. Damages can be minimized or avoided by paying attention to conditions and taking some proactive steps. It's important for people to take action to mitigate flooding risks. This handout will provide education on what floods and their associated dangers are, types of flood alerts, and actions to take before and after floods. A link to Red Cliff ordinances related to flood prone areas is also provided.

## What is a Flood?

- Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. They are the most common natural disaster in the US. Flood waters can lead to destruction of property, injury, and/or death.
- They result from rain, snow, storm surges, and overflow of water systems.
- Floods may develop slowly or quickly.
  - Flash floods can come with no warning.

## Dangers

- Power or utility outages
- Disrupt transportation routes and services
- Damaged buildings
- Damaged property
- Create landslides
- Injury
- Death



## Types of Alerts

These alerts can be broadcasted from NOAA weather radios, news media coverage, TV broadcast, and Wireless Emergency Alerts on your phone.

- Watch: Floods are possible in our area, be aware!
- Warning: Flood will occur soon in our area, so move to higher ground!

## Before a Flood

- Know the flood risk of your property.
  - Can be increased if you live near a floodplain, near a body of water, or have a basement.
- Build a to-go kit in case of evacuation.
  - This will include things you need on a day-to-day basis such as medications, food, and water.
- Put important documentation in water-proof containers.
- Make an emergency plan with your loved ones.
- Take steps to avoid unwanted water from infiltrating the home such as:
  - Clean gutters
  - Direct downspouts away from foundation
  - Repair foundation cracks
  - Cover window wells
- Move valuables out of the basement.
- Regularly inspect and test sump pump systems in basements.
- Elevate or flood proof washer, dryer, water heater, and HVAC system.
- Relocate electrical outlets to at least three feet above the floor.

## After/During a Flood

- Stay informed of the forecast for your area.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Get to the highest level if trapped in a building.



## After/During a Flood Continued

- Do not drive or walk through flooded areas.
  - Water can be deeper than they appear and be a risk of drowning.
  - Floodwaters can contain bacteria, sharp objects, hazardous chemicals, downed power lines, and other dangerous items
- Clean home after water recedes, following the cleaning and disinfecting guidelines to avoid mold growth.
- If power is out for more than 4 hours, throw out refrigerated food and any food that encountered flooded water.
- If you use a generator, keep it outside at least twenty feet from home to avoid illness or death via carbon monoxide.
- Check with local sources of information for updates on road closures, local shelters and other resources that may be available in your area. Local governments will often post this information to their websites and social media pages.
- If you are worried about flood damage to your home, remember the Environmental Department can conduct Mold Inspections for free
  - To request an inspection, follow the link to the Home Reporting Tool  
[Environmental Health & Home Safety Reporting Tool](#)

## Red Cliff Resource

Chapter 55 of the Red Cliff Code of Laws is Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance. Link below.

[CHAPTER 55 - FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION ORDINANCE](#)

Further questions contact Red Cliff's Environmental Health Specialist,

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Information gathered from Ready.gov and NOAA