

Why am I receiving this information?

Algoma Public Health is encouraging the residents of Algoma to be prepared for a flood. Start planning TODAY!

www.algomapublichealth.com

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 AlgomaHealth
#FloodTips



Algoma
PUBLIC HEALTH
Santé publique Algoma



FLOODS HAPPEN

Are you ready?

Before a Flood

To help reduce the chance of flood damage

- Familiarize yourself with your Homeowner Insurance Policy.
- Install protective plumbing fixtures (sump pumps, backwater valves, etc).
- Clean out eavestroughs regularly and direct downspouts away from the home.
- Slope the ground around your foundation away from home.
- Have a 72-hour emergency kit on hand.

For more information visit
www.getprepared.gc.ca

Well Construction

Proper well construction is vital to prevent contamination of your drinking water.

- Slope the ground away from your well to aid in drainage of water.
- Ensure the annular space is sealed properly.
- Ensure the well casing is at least 40cm above the ground surface.
- Only hire a licensed well contractor to drill a well or to do construction on an existing well.
- All wells that are not in use should be properly abandoned as per Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) requirements.
- Remove hazardous and toxic materials away from flood area to avoid pollution.

For more information on construction requirements for wells, please contact the Ontario Ministry of Environment.

During a Flood

- Pay close attention to the radio, internet and television messages for important information.
- Be ready to follow instructions from emergency officials.
- Call 911 if you have a life-threatening emergency.

After a Flood

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do not** venture into a flooded basement until the local electrical utility has shut the power off to the home.
- Flood water can be contaminated with sewage and other hazardous materials. Wear protective clothing such as boots, gloves and masks to minimize contact.
- Call your insurance company immediately to report damages.
- Call a professional cleaning company to clean up after a flood.
- If you choose to clean yourself, follow "A Guide for Cleaning up After a Flood" which is available at www.algomapublichealth.com



Drinking Water

If you get your drinking water from a well and have had flooding on your property, the drinking water may be contaminated.

- **DO NOT** drink the water until it has been tested to be safe.
- Water testing bottles can be picked up at your local public health office or township office.
- Water samples need to be dropped off at the Public Health Laboratory located at 160 McDougal Street in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Use an alternative source of drinking water (bottled water) or bring the water to a rolling boil for one minute.
- Contact your Public Health Inspector if your water has been tested to be unsafe.

Septic Systems

If you have an on-site sewage system take the proper precautions to prevent contamination to your drinking water and property.

- If you suspect your sewage system is damaged, have your septic system inspected and serviced by a professional.
- Do not pump your septic tank until water has receded as this could force the tank to float out of the ground.