



CITIZENS: BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER FLOODING



FLOODS

Floods are common natural disasters and it is estimated that they account for about 40% of all natural disasters in the world. Floods are common natural disasters and it is estimated that they account for about 40% of all natural disasters in the world - they can be local scale floods that affect villages or small communities, or large scale floods that affect entire river basins and a number of municipalities.

The duration of flooding process varies from case to case. Flooding in lowland areas develops slowly, for several days, in contrast to flash floods that develop quickly, sometimes without visible signs. Flash floods are defined as watercourses with relatively high inclination ($> 2\%$), with variable amounts of water and a disproportionately large amount of bed and suspended sediment in relation to the flow.

The basic form of this erosion process torrential sink, a storage torrential alluvial fans. Such floods form a dangerous and destructive flood wave that carries mud, stones, branches and waste.

A flood occurs when a river bursts its banks and the water spills onto the floodplain. Flooding tends to be caused by heavy rain. Flooding can occur due to rupture and spill over the dam due to excessive water flow - causing a flood similar flash flood, but to a much broader and more disastrous scale. Floods can happen everywhere. Even very small streams, rivers, canals for drainage of rain or channels that act harmless, can cause large-scale flooding..

Floods have a great impact on people's lives, especially in the case of inhabited flooded area. Floods can make significant material damage to residential and commercial buildings, and infrastructure, but can also have a negative impact on the physical and mental health, as well as on other aspects of social life. Consequently, it is extremely important to be well prepared for floods and know what to do before, during and after their occurrence.

Flooded area is the surface of earth covered with water due to flooding. Flood wave is the amount of water caused by increased water flow into waterways.



INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACT IN CASE OF FLOOD



1.1. For local governments

Before the flood

- ✓ Develop Disaster risk assessment, as well as protection and Protection and rescue plans in accordance with the Law on Emergency Situations, in order to determine flood hazard area and precisely define flood prevention measures
- ✓ Implement necessary preventive and technical flood control measures (provide necessary research, studies and projects in order to take measures to increase the level of safety against floods)
- ✓ Identify available resources and technical, administrative, material, financial, human and institutional resources for the implementation of flood control, including the preparation of annual needs, and budget balance
- ✓ Develop and implementation of all flood control required legal instruments (agreements on the takeover of labor, materials and machinery, contracts for the engagement of the workforce; agreements on using public and private spaces and institutions as reception for vulnerable categories from flooding; agreements for the use of transport vehicles; agreements on the reimbursement of expenses of volunteers, etc.).
- ✓ In cooperation with RHMZ , ensure procurement of Hydrological to establish effective system of timely notice of flood rains
- ✓ Maintain protective structures (rehabilitation of weak points), and provide repair of existing and construction of new dams
- ✓ Ensure the regulation of water flows, breaking the ice in streambeds
- ✓ Perform timely preparation for evacuation of people, animals and organize relocation of material and cultural goods.
- ✓ Prevent the construction of new buildings in flood hazard areas (review of existing displacement if there exist financial opportunities).
- ✓ Undertake other measures in accordance with Art. 15 of the Law on Emergency situations

During floods

- ✓ Monitor forecasts and movement of water level to ensure surveillance of water levels and water flows and objects on accumulation
- ✓ Ensure an effective communication system and alert population on downstream of the hydro-accumulations
- ✓ rule the roost protection and rescue actions in the area of local government and to coordinate the implementation of measures and tasks of civil protection
- ✓ Make use of force for protection and rescue, assistance funds and other necessary resources
- ✓ Ensure organized participation of human resources and equipment in protection and rescue of vulnerable population and goods (evacuation, management, provide medical assistance, etc.) along with the assessment of need to engage the Serbian Army or call for international aid and undertake other measures to prevent or mitigate the consequences of floods
- ✓ Inform population on necessary measures for safe evacuation population
- ✓ Establish necessary cooperation with the other units of local government, the state authorities and economic entities to help reduce the effects of flooding
- ✓ Arrange psychological assistance for affected populations, rescuers and other categories of citizens in need

After the flood

- ✓ Shelter and assistance of evacuated persons in emergency situations including provision of emergency shelter, health care, provision of food and drinking water, family reunification, psychological support and create of other living conditions
- ✓ Rehabilitation of terrain- sanitary and hygienic and sanitary and technical activities on the terrain, in towns and facilities with a view to prevention of infection and epidemics spreading and other detrimental consequences on the population and material goods.
- ✓ Arrange with the relevant authorities assessment of damage
- ✓ Manage and coordinate the implementation of measures and tasks related to civil protection, reconstruction and rehabilitation taking into consideration the needs of sustainable development and reduction of vulnerability and risks from future flooding
- ✓ Inform authorities of the Republic and Province in implementing measures of protection and rescue of persons identified in Protection and Rescue Plan
- ✓ Propose measures to improve protection and rescue system on the territory of local government
- ✓ Undertake other measures in accordance with the Law on Emergency Situations



2. FOR CITIZIENS

Before the floods

- ✓ Please act responsibly, do not throw waste into rivers, streams and canals
- ✓ If the waste is already in riverbeds and canals, contact the relevant waste disposal service
- ✓ In the cities where heavy rains increase surface runoff, do not throw waste and do not cover drainage manholes which drains storm water
- ✓ If possible, prepare sand bags that you can put on the entrance in case of flooding and close all house openings through which water can enter.
- ✓ Do not block waterways to accumulate water in the summer
- ✓ If you expect water in your basement and / or on the first floor, or you are in lack of time, you can move your boiler, water heater and other appliances to a higher level. Organize your basement rooms so that in case of floods damage will be minimal, packing of goods on higher floors.
- ✓ Make sure to keep things harmful to environment away from the areas affected by flood.

During the flood

- ✓ If you live downstream from the dam, get informed about the emergency signal, how much time you need to get out and which area is safe if it collapses
- ✓ Be prepared in case you need to leave the house - prepare a backpack or bag with personal documents and essential things (flashlight, whistle, raincoat, warm clothes, boots - preferably rubber boots, a bottle of drinking water, transistor radio and extra batteries, stick, rope, etc.) move to higher ground if you can do so safely or go to higher floor of the house
- ✓ If you have time secure your home
- ✓ Do not obstruct the work of the rescue

team

- ✓ Through the media follow the situation and warnings of a possible flood
- ✓ Turn off electricity at the main switch and do not approach the electrical installation.
- ✓ Do not walk through moving water. 15 centimeters of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the depth of water and the firmness of ground
- ✓ Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely
- ✓ Do not cross streams and brooks either on foot or by car
- ✓ Evacuate domestic animals, and if it is not possible, release them from the buildings in which they are locate
- ✓ Avoid landslides and rockslides on the ground



✓Eight steps to keep health during a flood

- ✓Use bottled, disinfected or boiling water for drinking, washing hands and teeth, preparing food and washing dishes
- ✓Eat only canned food or food from jars that were completely closed; wash them with clean water before opening
- ✓Keep food in a dry, clean and ventilated place
- ✓Use as a toilet only places intended for that purpose (existing, mobile or temporary assembled toilet)
- ✓Do not allow to children to play in areas where water of flood spilled
- ✓If there are rotten food, food residues (eg from refrigerators and freezers that were without electricity or were in contact with flood water) or dead animals do not come into direct contact with it in any case, but necessarily call a veterinary office or veterinary inspection
- ✓If you feel or have any of the following symptoms: nausea, itching, urge to vomiting, red eyes, body injuries, diarrhea, cough, stuffy nose, fever, skin redness, if you have a headache or muscle pain, consult the nearest doctor



What to do with garbage during a flood?

- ✓Rubbish attracts animals like cockroaches, rats, mice, flies and dogs that can transmit a variety of diseases. Therefore, it is important to do next:
- ✓Garbage is disposed of only in containers that are intended for that purpose
- ✓Keep garbage away from food and drinking water
- ✓If there are dead animals be sure to call the veterinary office or veterinary inspection
- ✓Do not store canned food that are already opened and not eaten
- ✓For more information contact your nearest Department of Public Health and veterinary services
- ✓Be careful with drinking water during a flood
- ✓Drinking water may become dirty for humans and animals use. Therefore, it is necessary:
- ✓To listen only notifications of Institute / Department of Public Health about the state of drinking water and its safety
- ✓Use bottled, boiled or disinfected drinking water for hand and teeth washing, food preparing and washing dishes
- ✓Containers intended for storing water should be washed with special care, with a little chlorine diluted in water
- ✓Always cover containers intended for storing drinking water
- ✓For more information contact the nearest



After flood

- ✓ Follow news about water supply and quality of drinking water
- ✓ Do not use flood water because it may be energized by underground cables or polluted with sludge, oil, petrol or faecal sewage
- ✓ Be careful in areas where flood water withdrawn, roads may be damaged and dangerous
- ✓ Return to your home, only if competent authorities estimates that it is safe
- ✓ Do not use electrical appliances before checks
- ✓ Clean and disinfect all wetted surfaces. Clean walls and flooded floors of rooms with gloves. The sludge that remains after flood water may contain sewage waste and chemicals.
- ✓ Throw items that can not be cleaned
- ✓ Stay away from buildings surrounded by flood waters
- ✓ Enter in buildings carefully because of possible hidden damage
- ✓ Enable damaged septic tanks and other sewage systems as soon as possible, because of major health risk
- ✓ If you notice dead animals inform a relevant department at telephone numbers 193 or 1985

Returning home after flood water withdrawal

- ✓ After floodwater is withdrawn, it is important to note that there are hazardous risks to the health of entire families.
- ✓ If the residential or commercial building is still under water, be sure to inform the competent authorities and services to help you switch off the electricity and gas
- ✓ It is very important to check your house for changes in building structure during the day. Keep children away in order to avoid any risk
- ✓ If you smell gas, do not enter the house, do not turn on electricity and be sure to inform the competent authorities
- ✓ You can turn off the electricity only if you are on a completely dry place. NEVER turn off or turn on the electricity or electrical appliances when you are in contact with water
- ✓ If there is water in your house still, get into it with rubber boots or put plastic bags over the shoes. Do not let the flood water to be in contact with your skin
- ✓ These procedures must be done before returning of pregnant women, children and old and sick people
- ✓ For more information, contact the nearest Department of Public Health and local government authorities.



Cleaning house after flood water withdrawal

- ✓ Pregnant women, children and old people should not stay in the house until it is completely clean and dry
- ✓ Before cleaning the inside of your house, ventilate all rooms for at least half an hour.
- ✓ Wash floors and walls with detergent and water and always use gloves. After that contact your nearest Institute / Department of Public Health for further instructions about disinfection, disinsection and deratization
- ✓ Wash hands with clean water and soap after cleaning
- ✓ All clothes and fabrics that were under flood water wash with detergent and warm water
- ✓ It is possible that mold which is dangerous to health appeared in the house after flood
- ✓ If there is a runny nose, redness of the skin, shortness of breath, contact your doctor as soon as possible
- ✓ For more information contact the nearest Department of Public Health and local authorities.

Returning to public buildings after flood

- ✓ Ensure there is no risk of landslides beside the public building (schools, kindergartens, health centers, etc.)
- ✓ Turn off the power only if you stand in a dry place
- ✓ Ventilate all rooms at least 30 minutes before you go in
- ✓ Clean only with rubber boots or shoes covered with plastic bag up to knees and always use gloves
- ✓ Throw all the books and papers that were affected by the flood.
- ✓ Use detergent and water with gloves to wash floors and walls. After that contact your nearest Institute / Department of Public Health for further instructions regarding to disinfection, disinsection and deratization.
- ✓ Call competent authorities to verify all installation and to permit return.





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Investing in your future!

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