

HEAVY RAINSTORMS

WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Keep it moving! Don't let water build up on roads and property. Rake and shovel leaves and debris away from storm drains and ditches to keep water draining.



Different types of wild Northwest winter weather require different precautions. Today, let's take a look at how you can be prepared for heavy rainstorms.

Whether it's a torrential downpour or a prolonged rainfall buildup lasting several days, heavy rains affect people, homes and land differently based on the location. Below are some of the risks associated with a heavy rainstorm:

- Street flooding, which causes deep, standing puddles on roadways and dangerous driving conditions
- Basement flooding, which can cause loss of valuables and dangerous situations
- Transportation routes affected by flooding and landslides
- Evacuation orders due to flooding rivers
- Damaged buildings due to severe flooding
- Landslides causing severe damage to — or even loss of — homes
- Prolonged power outages due to downed lines caused by landslides and flooding

Be prepared for a rainstorm by watching weather forecasts with your family. Be aware of potential heavy rains or rainfall buildup over multiple days. Keep rain gear, water-repellent clothing and extra warm clothing handy at home and in your family's vehicle to use in an emergency.

DRAINAGE/LANDSLIDES

Help keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris to avoid flooding streets and damage to personal property.

- Watch the patterns of stormwater drainage on slopes near your home, and note places where runoff water converges
- Grade property so water drains away from the foundation and downspouts direct water away from the property into the storm-drainage system



FLOODING

- Turn around! Don't drown! Never walk or drive through flooded roads or areas. You can't always tell how deep the water might be, whether a road has been washed away or if there are hazards beneath the surface.
- Store valuables on high shelves on a ground floor or on the top floors of your home to avoid water damage
- Stay out of flooding basements — there is a danger of electrocution due to live electrical currents or drowning due to an unforeseen flash flood or mudslide
- If you live, work or go to school near rivers that are prone to flooding, locate several routes to higher ground. Have an emergency kit ready to grab and go in case of evacuation.
- Be safe: Follow evacuation and other official directions during flood emergencies.
- Update your pet's ID tag and/or get them microchipped to make finding them easier in case you are separated from them during an evacuation
- Choose an out-of-state contact for your family, and make sure everyone knows who that person is and how to contact him or her. Practice making contact with your out-of-state contact prior to an emergency.
- Got sandbags? If you live in an area that typically floods, you should prepare sandbags to place around your home.
- Sign up for flood alerts. Go to www.TakeWinterByStorm.org and click on the alerts button to find alerts in your area.



WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Turn around! Don't drown! Flooded areas could be much deeper than you think. Don't take a chance by walking or driving through flooded areas. Turn around and move to higher ground.

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For more winter weather preparedness tips, checklists and information, go to www.TakeWinterByStorm.org.

Use Take Winter By Storm checklists to prepare prior to winter storms. You can find detailed checklists and Emergency Contact Cards in multiple languages, as well as additional resources and tips in our Teacher's Guide at seattletimes.com/NIE and at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

