**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, August 04, 2021

Name, Title

(603) ###-####

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FLASH FLOOD WARNING IN PLACE, RESIDENTS AND VISITORS
ARE URGED TO USE CAUTION**

CITY/TOWN, N.H. – Floods are anticipated to affect \_\_\_\_ parts of New Hampshire during (\*insert timeframe\*). Residents and visitors are reminded to use caution during flooding.

*\*Describe flooding event in detail\**

*\*Important safety information and tips to include:\**

LOCAL FLOODING INFORMATION:

* Visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and input your zip code

LOCAL POWER COMPANIES INFORMATION:

* Eversource: (800) 662-7764
* Liberty Utilities: (800) 375-7413
* NH Electric Co-op: (800) 343-6432
* Unitil Capital Area: (800) 852-3339, Seacoast Region: (800) 582-7276

**Understand the Dangers of Floods and Flash Flooding**

* Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and most vehicles will begin to float, lose control and possibly stall.
* About 12 inches of moving water can sweep a vehicle away, and 24 inches of water will sweep away SUVs and pick-up trucks.
* If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
* Listen to radio and television for updates.
* Learn more about flood safety and what to do before, during and after a flood at ReadyNH.gov.

**Be Safe During a Flood**

* Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Turn Around, Don’t Drown! ®
* If trapped in a building, go to the highest level.
* Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly with little warning.
* Use a stick to determine the firmness of the ground in front you.
* If your vehicle is trapped in rapid waters, stay inside the vehicle. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof of the vehicle.
* If floodwaters rise around your vehicle but the water is not moving, abandon the vehicle and move to higher ground.
* Keep copies of important documents in waterproof containers.

**Be Safe After a Flood:**

* Return home when authorities say it is safe to do so.
* Wait before entering a structure damaged by flooding. Structures that have been damaged by flooding may not be safe to enter. Wait for the building to be inspected before entering.
* Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.
* Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
* Look out for any mold growth after a flood and learn about the best way to address any issues that you see.
* Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.
* Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet.
* Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your local power company.
	+ Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
* Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
	+ Water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage.

*\*Important language to know\**

* Flood Watch: Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.
* Flash Flood Watch: Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground.
* Flood Warning: Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
* Flash Flood Warning: A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

*\*Contact Information to Include:\**

* Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies.
* Learn more about flooding incidents and preparedness at ReadyNH.gov.

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