**Floods**

**MAIN POINT(S) / KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Understand the dangers of floods and flash flooding and the current conditions and threat.
2. Be Prepared – know what to do and have the things you need to stay safe.
3. Stay informed – monitor changing conditions and available information in your area.

**NOTES**:

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

* If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
* Listen to the radio and television for updates.
* 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.
* Learn more about flood safety and what to do before, during and after flooding 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 roof of the vehicle.
* If floodwaters rise around your vehicle but the water is not moving, abandon the vehicle and move to higher ground.

**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 down 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.

**ANTICIPATED TOUGH QUESTIONS**: