

# SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

## ZERO HARM

### Flash Flood Preparation

#### Know what to expect:

- Know your area's flood risk—if unsure, call your local American Red Cross chapter, emergency management office, or planning and zoning department.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of flood.
- Listen to local radio and television stations for flood information.

#### Reduce potential flood damage by:

- Raising your furnace, water heater, and electrical panel if they are in areas that may be flooded.
- Consult with a professional for further information if this and other damage reduction measures can be taken.

Floods can take several hours to days to develop. A flood *watch* means that a flood is possible in your area

A flood *warning* means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

Flash floods can take only a few minutes to a few hours to develop. A flash flood *watch* means flash flooding is possible in your area. A flash flood *warning* means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon in your area.

#### When a flood watch is issued:

- Move furniture and valuables to higher floors in your home.
- Fill vehicle gas tanks, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

#### When a flood warning is issued:

- Listen to local radio and television stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

#### When a flash flood watch is issued:

- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.

#### When a flash flood warning is issued:

- Or if you think a flash flood has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do NOT drive around barricades; the barricades are in place for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon your car immediately and climb to higher ground.