



PREVENT, GET INFORMED, GET PREPARED

What is a flood?

Flooding occurs when the level of a water body rises and changes its course, covering land that is usually dry. This can happen in many ways. The most common way is when watercourses rise or lakes and lagoons overflow onto their banks.

The rise in the water level can be due to numerous climatic factors such as: heavy rainfall, melting snow and ice, and prolonged rainfall. Other causes are related to anthropogenic factors such as: imbalance between the water volume to be evacuated and the collecting capacity of the rainwater drainage systems, human intervention on natural streams, thus decreasing their capacity and, finally, the bursting of dams or the opening of dam floodgates.

SENAPRED

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Integral Information and Citizen Assistance System (SIAC)

Citizen Service Office

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www.senapred.cl

With the support of



PREVENT

get informed, get prepared



Floods





IF THERE IS A WATERCOURSE, LAKE AND/OR LAGOON NEAR YOUR HOME, WORKPLACE OR PLACE YOU ARE VISITING.

Learn about previous floods and overflows that have occurred in the area. Keep informed on weather conditions. Identify safe high ground areas and stay away from watercourses, ravines, lakes and lagoons.



Stay away from riverbeds, ravines, lakes and lagoons in periods of heavy rainfall and snow thaw.



Keep ditches, rainwater drainages and your house surroundings free of debris and waste materials.

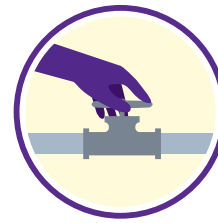


Assess the need of raising the height of home structures and inform local authorities on the obstruction and overflow of watercourses and drainage systems.



WHAT TO DO DURING A FLOOD

Evacuate quickly to higher ground in the event of rising water, especially if you live in an area close to a lake, lagoon, river or ravine.



Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas and water supply.



If advised to evacuate your home, do so immediately and move to a safe area. If you are unable to evacuate, move from low areas and take shelter as far from the ground floor as you can.



Do not attempt to walk across flooded areas, roads or low-water crossings. Seek higher and dry areas instead.



Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe. When returning home, inspect power lines and gas and water supply. Initiate cleaning and disinfection works.



Do not drink water until the authorities say it is safe to do so. Discard food that may have come in contact with flood water.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

- Get familiarized with your surroundings. Find out the hazard potential of where you live or where you are visiting and learn about the emergency plan of the respective local government.
- An emergency does not only affect people- keep in mind that animals and pets are also affected.
- Elaborate and put into practice your Ready-to-Act Family Plan. Visit www.senapred.cl

- Always have an Emergency Kit on hand. Visit www.senapred.cl
- Disasters, whether of natural or social origin, do NOT affect us all equally. Disasters have different impacts on the life quality of women, children and men, the elderly, people with disabilities and ethnic groups, among others. Therefore, the vulnerabilities, needs and capabilities of each of these groups must be considered.