

# ONDANGWA

## TOWN COUNCIL



### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

#### Know Your Emergency Numbers

**Fire brigade:** 0814410889/ 0812798665

**NAC Fire Services:** 065-240515

**Burst water pipe:** 065-240101

**Electricity failures:** 065-2822123/248847

**NORED Toll-Free:** 0800000100

**State Ambulance:** 065 280400/1

#### **Namibia Private**

**Ambulance Services:** 0819696/ 0811473387

#### **Ondangwa Private**

**Ambulance Services:** 08190200

**E-med:** 081924

**Ondangwa Private Hospital:** 065 - 242395/6

**Ondangwa state Hospital:** 065280400/1/2/3

**Police:** 065-242650

065-242663/242651

#### **AFTER A FLOOD**

- Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. Listen to radio or television broadcasts and don't return home until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Remember to help your neighbours who may require special assistance, e.g. infants, elderly people and people with disabilities. Inspect foundations for cracks or other damage.
- Stay out of buildings if flood waters remain around the building.

#### **When entering buildings, use extreme caution.**

- Wear sturdy shoes and use battery-powered flash lights when examining buildings.'
- Examine walls, floors, doors and windows to make sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing.
- Watch out for animals, especially poisonous snakes, that may have come into your house with the flood waters, use a stick to poke through debris.
- Watch for loose plaster or ceilings that could fall.

#### **Look for fire hazards:**

- Flooded electrical circuits.
- Submerged electrical appliances.
- Flammable or explosive materials coming from upstream.
- Discard food that has come into contact with flood waters. Canned goods should be properly cleaned.
- Service septic tanks or sewage systems as soon as possible - as damaged systems are health hazards.

#### **Inspecting utilities in a damaged home:**

- Check for gas leaks (where used) - if you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the main valve.
- Look for electrical systems damage - if you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, switch off the electricity at the main switch. If you have to step into water to get to the main switch, contact an electrician for advice.
- Check for sewage and water lines damage - if you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, call a plumber and avoid using tap water.

#### **Helping after disaster**

**W**hen disaster strikes, people everywhere want to help those in need. To ensure that this compassion and generosity are put to good use, the media can highlight these facts:

- Financial aid is an immediate need for disaster victims.
- Before donating food or clothing, wait for instruction from local official, broken or leaking gas lines (if used).

# FLOOD PREPAREDNESS TIPS

## What is Flood?

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters - apart from fires. Many communities in Namibia experience some kind of flooding during our rainy season. Floods can be slow, or fast rising, but generally develop over a period of days.

## What is flash flood?

They usually result from intense storms, dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period of time. Flash floods appear with little or no warning and can reach full peak in only a few minutes. Communities particularly at risk, are those located in low-lying areas, near water or downstream from a dam.

## Plan Ahead

Mitigation pays off. This includes any activities that prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening or lessen the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies. Investing in mitigation steps will help reduce the amount of structural damage to your home and financial loss from building and crop damage should a flood or flash flood occur.

## Before a Flood

Find out if you live in a flood-prone area from your local Municipal Offices, i.e. Planning Department. Ask if your property is above or below the flood line and learn about the history of flooding in your region.

If you live in a frequently flooded area, stockpile emergency building materials, which could include plywood, plastic sheeting, shovels, sandbags, etc. Plan and practice to evacuate from home.

### Have disaster supplies on hand (which could include):

- Flashlights and extra batteries.
- Portable radio and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Emergency food and water.
- Non-electric can opener.
- Essential medicines.
- Protective clothing.

### Develop an Emergency Communication Plan:

- In case family members are separated from one another during floods or flash floods (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children at school or at home), have a plan for getting back together again.

Ask an "out of area" relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." Make sure that everyone knows the name, address and tel. No. of the contact person.

### Make sure that every family member knows how to respond after a flood or flash flood:

- Teach all family members how and when to turn off electricity, water and gas (if used).
- Teach children how and when to call for medical help, the Emergency Services Division and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.

### After a Flood Warning

- Listen to a battery-operated radio for the latest storm
- Information or weather reports
- Bring outdoor belongings, such as patio furniture
- indoors.
- Move valuable household possessions to the upper
- floors or to safe ground if time permits.
- If you are instructed to do so, by local authorities or an authorized person, turn off all appliances at the main switch.
- Be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

## During a Flood

### If indoors:

- Turn on battery-operated radio or television to get the latest emergency information or weather reports
- Get your pre-assembled emergency supplies.
- If told to leave, do so immediately.

### If outdoors:

- Climb to high ground and stay there.
- Avoid walking through any flood waters. If moving swiftly, even water 12 cm deep can sweep you off your feet.

### If in a Car:

If you come to a flood area, turn around and go another way. Don't be inquisitive, it hampers emergency workers. If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles. Obey road traffic signs, roadblocks and instructions from law enforcement officers, at all times. If you don't you risk danger as well as being prosecuted.

**Don't take risks!**

## During an Evacuation

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Evacuation is much simpler and safer before flood waters become too deep for ordinary vehicles to drive through.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio for evacuation instructions.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes shortcuts may be blocked.
- Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads.

