



**Orange County** is dedicated to minimizing the loss of life and property that is associated with flooding events. Education and prevention are valuable and proven tools that help communities become resistant to these natural disasters and to help protect yourself and your structure from future flooding. Here are some things you can do to protect yourself and your family from future flooding.

#### **Prepare for the Flooding Event:**

- Prepare your family or business- go to [www.ready.gov/floods](http://www.ready.gov/floods) for more information.
- Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your property when a flood occurs.
- Make a list of emergency numbers, a family evacuation plan and identify a safe place to go if evacuations are called by elected officials.
- Make an inventory list of all personal belongings and take detailed photographs of your home-both inside and outside.
- Protect your personal documents and special items and place insurance policies and valuable papers in a safe accessible place.
- Register with STAN before a disaster occurs to stay informed- <https://thestan.com/> .
- Bring outdoor furniture and anything not tied down in; also, trim trees and shrubs to prevent projectiles during the storm from high wind.
- Keep gutters and drains free of debris.
- Lastly, check on your neighbors and share your tips.

#### **Consider Some Permanent Flood Protection Measures:**

- Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power can reduce property damage and save lives.
- Consider elevating or floodproofing utilities above flood levels.
- Check your building for water entry points and install “check valves” in sewer lines to prevent back-ups .
- Be aware that some flood protection measures may need a building permit with the Orange County Environmental Health and Code Compliance Department before making any alterations or repairs.

#### **Consider Flood Insurance:**

- Consider a flood insurance policy-it will help pay for repairs after a flood. Check out [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for more information.
- Most homeowner’s insurance policies do NOT cover damage from floods.
- In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage takes effect.
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage. An insurance agent locator tool is available on [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

#### **Help Protect our Rivers and Bayous**

- It is illegal to dump any type of debris into a stream, river or drainage channel. This debris can impede our drainage system causing water to back up. Orange County residents should keep drainage channels on their property free of debris, foliage and other obstructions.