



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

GUADALUPE COUNTY

2605 N. GUADALUPE STREET  
SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155-7356

SHELLY COLEMAN, DIRECTOR

OFFICE: (830) 303-8858  
FAX: (830) 372-3961  
MON-FRI 7:30AM – 4:00PM

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## Flood Safety

### What can I do before the flood?

- Keep a stock of food on hand that does not need to be cooked.
- Keep a first aid kit available.
- Keep your vehicle fueled.
- Tune into local radio station KWED 1580 AM, television or NOAA weather radio to get the most current information on the situation.
- Know where shelters are that you can use for evacuation, or have other options available that give you shelter out of the floodplain.
- Know what supplies to take with you in an evacuation.
- Buy flood insurance.
- Have an inventory (including photos) of your personal property updated and in a safe place. This makes it a lot easier to file insurance claims should disaster strike.
- Sandbags may help keep floodwaters from entering your home.
- Look at low-lying areas around your home that could benefit from improved drainage; look at your neighborhood for drainage enhancements as well.
- Look at retrofitting your home to help minimize flood damage.

### What can I do to be safe during a flood?

- When told to evacuate by officials, do so in a timely manner.
- Check the Guadalupe County Emergency Management Department for evacuation routes.
- Know what you need to take with you in an evacuation, and have that ready to go before the call to leave comes.
- Elevate any items you can to improve the chances they'll stay dry in a flood.
- Avoid flood-prone areas while evacuating. Don't drive through standing or running water (even if you think you know how deep it could be), and avoid unstable or low-lying areas if possible.
- Before you leave your home, shut off the electricity at the main breaker/fuse panel to everything except refrigerators and freezers. Turn off the water supply to your home. It will make your return that much safer.

### What should I do after the flood?

- Do not eat fresh food that has come into contact with flood water.
- Drink only bottled water.
- Stay away from flooded areas. You will only hamper rescue and response efforts.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment.
- Report downed power lines to law enforcement or to the power company.
- Stay tuned to your portable radio or TV for additional information and updates on the situation.