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For Immediate Release

[Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Advises Spring Flood Preparedness](#)

HELENA, Mont. – Several counties and tribal jurisdictions around the state are seeing localized flooding due to recent snow melt. MT DES’ State Emergency Coordination Center is closely monitoring flooding, but no state resources have been requested by local jurisdictions at this time. While flooding in Montana is currently localized, flooding can be experienced across the state, particularly in areas near rivers and streams.

Montanans should prepare for spring flooding by having an emergency “go” kit with important documents, supplies, non-perishable foods, and water ready in the event of an evacuation or if services are cut off in their area. Knowing evacuation routes and making plans for pets and livestock are also critical. More information for flood preparedness can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/floods>. Anyone needing sandbags or assistance should reach out to their local emergency management office. In a flood emergency, always dial 9-1-1 first.

Additionally, homeowners are also encouraged to visit with their insurance professional to discuss their risks and flood insurance options. Most homeowners’ insurance policies do not cover damage caused by flooding, and flood insurance typically must be purchased 30 days prior to a flooding event.

Another important preparedness action includes signing up for community emergency alerts in your area and registering for mobile alerts through the FEMA App or your mobile service provider. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts through broadcasters, satellite digital audio services, direct broadcast satellite providers, cable television systems and wireless cable systems.

For current and ongoing awareness, visit MT DES’ Situational Awareness dashboard at [Montana Disaster and Emergency Services - Current Situational Awareness \(arcgis.com\)](#).

In the event of flooding, some tips include the following:

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.
- Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving water. Get on the roof if water is rising inside the car.
- Get to the highest level if trapped in a building. Only get on the roof if necessary and once there, signal for help.

As winter snow and spring melt off continues, MT DES encourages everyone to maintain awareness, be prepared, and heed warnings and alerts issued for affected areas.

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