Are you Ready for a Flood or a Flash Flood?

Here’s what you can do to prepare for such emergencies...

Know what to expect

- Know your area’s flood risk - if unsure, call your local emergency management office or local emergency planning committee.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.
- Listen to local radio or TV station for flood information.

Reduce potential flood damage by

- Raising your furnace, water heater, and electrical panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.

Floods can take several hours to days to develop

- A flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area.
- A flood WARNING means flooding is occurring or will occur soon in your area.

Prepare a Family Disaster Plan

- Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit containing

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person.
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember you’ll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

Cherokee County Local Emergency Planning Committee
Are you Ready for a Flood or a Flash Flood?

Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places... a friend’s home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

**When a flood WATCH is issued**
- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car’s gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

**When a flood WARNING is issued**
- Listen to local radio stations (WKRK and WCVP/WCNG), for information and advice. IF told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

**When a flash flood WATCH is issued**
- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment’s notice.

**When a flash flood WARNING is issued**
- Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may only have seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. DO NOT drive around barricades. They are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising water, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.