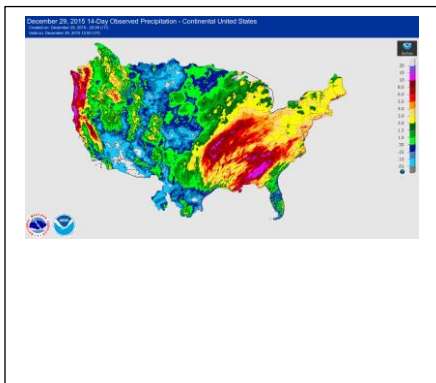


Bedford Township Floodplain Information

Bedford Township has successfully obtained a CRS (Community Rating System) number through The National Flood Insurance Program. This CRS number provides Bedford Township residents only who are required to purchase or wish to purchase flood insurance a 5% discount for flood insurance.



Flood Risks

Be Prepared

Being prepared is key to protecting your family, home and your finances in case of a flood. Here are some things you can do to prepare for a flood.

Make copies of important documents (mortgage papers, insurance information, bank and credit card information, birth certificates and any other important documents you may need) and keep a copy not only in your home but in a secure place such as a bank safety deposit box.

Photographing your personal belongings like furniture, electronics, and appliances will give visual proof of your belongings. Along with the photographs save your receipt's for expensive items to show proof of original cost. Store the photos and receipts with your other important documents.

Preventive Measures

- ❖ Repair any weak or broken brickwork or mortar
- ❖ Consider replacing your doors or windows with flood resistant door or flood resistant windows
- ❖ Seal gaps around services that pass through walls
- ❖ Install a Sump and Pump System if required
- ❖ A supply of sandbags or custom made removable barriers to block doors, windows and patio doors.
- ❖ Purchase drainage plugs and covers that can be fitted once a flood warning has been issued
- ❖ Turn off all the main switches and controls to the electricity, gas and water
- ❖ Unplug appliance and move them to higher ground if possible.
- ❖ Move furniture to a higher location, roll up rugs and carpets
- ❖ Elevate your washer, dryer, water heater, oil tank, furnace and electrical wiring on concrete blocks. If you're unable to raise an item, anchor it and protect it with a floodwall or shield
- ❖ Install backflow valves or standpipes to prevent sewer lines from backing up
- ❖ Fuel tanks, air-conditioning units and generators should be anchored and raised above flood level. Unanchored fuel tanks can break free, and severed supply lines will contaminate surrounding ground.



During a Flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- ❖ Listen to radio or television for information.
- ❖ Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instruction to move.
- ❖ Be aware of stream, drainage channels, canyons and other areas know to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without typical warnings such as rain clouds or heavy rain.



- ❖ Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of water is not was obvious. The road maybe washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.
- ❖ Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- ❖ A foot of water will float many vehicles
- ❖ Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including SUV'S and pick-ups.
- ❖ Do not try to take short cuts. They may be blocked. Stick to designated evacuation routes.
- ❖ Do not drive around a barricade. Barricades are there for your protection. Turn around and go the other way.
- ❖ Be especially cautious driving at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers
- ❖ Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks. Particularly during threatening conditions.
- ❖ Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

Cleaning up your home after the flood

Tips from “floodsafety.com”

- ❖ First call your insurance agent. List damage and take photos or videotape as you clean.
- ❖ Clean all surfaces with hot water, a suitable heavy duty cleaner, and disinfectant.
- ❖ Electrical system must be shut off and repaired and inspected by an electrician before it can be turned on. Wiring must be completely dried out – even behind walls.
- ❖ Heating and cooling systems and ducts will need inspection and cleaning. Flood – soaked insulation should be replaced.
- ❖ If your basement is full or nearly full of water, pump out just 2 or 3 feet each day. If you drain the basement too quickly, the pressure outside the walls will be greater than the pressure inside the walls. That may make the walls and floor crack and collapse.
- ❖ Styrofoam insulation might only need to be hosed off. Fiberglass batts should be thrown out if muddy but may be reused if dried thoroughly. Loose or blown-in cellulose should be replaced since it holds water for a long time and can lose its antifungal and fire retardant abilities.
- ❖ Prevent mold and remove wet contents immediately. Wet carpeting, furniture, bedding, and any other items holding moisture or water inside the building can develop mold within 24 to 48 hours.
- ❖ Do not approach wild animals that take refuge in your home. Wild animals often seek refuge from floodwaters on upper levels of homes and have been known to remain after water recedes. Call your local animal control office or wildlife resource office to handle the situation.
- ❖ **For FEMA Disaster Assistance, call 1-800-621-3362.**

After the Flood

Your home has been flooded. Although floodwaters may be down in some areas, many dangers still exist. Here are some things to remember in the days ahead:

- ❖ Use local alerts and warning systems to get information and expert informed advice as soon as available.
- ❖ Emergency workers will be assisting people in flooded areas. You can help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.
- ❖ Stay away from damaged areas unless your Assistance has been specifically requested by Police, fire or relief organizations.
- ❖ Play it safe. Additional flooding or flash floods can occur. Listen for local warnings and information. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, get out immediately and climb to higher ground.
- ❖ Return home only when authorities indicate It is safe

Never swim or play around flood water. It may contain chemicals, bacteria and disease causing organisms. If you skin comes in contact with floodwater, make sure to wash it with soap and disinfected water because the contents are unknown.

Flood Insurance

As a homeowner or renter, it's imperative that you protect your property from disasters that may occur in your area. As one of the most likely disasters in the U.S., floods can strike anywhere. Even if your region isn't considered a likely area for flooding, you may want to consider the option of flood insurance. Flooding can occur following a disaster like a hurricane or a severe storm, and can be the direct result of rising water levels nearby. Because most property insurance specifically excludes floods, it's best to **secure flood coverage** in order to keep your property safe no matter what occurs. This type of coverage must be secured through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Staying Healthy

A flood can cause physical hazards and emotional stress. You need to look after yourself and your family as



- ❖ Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage.
- ❖ Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. damaged sewer systems are serious health hazards.
- ❖ Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.
- ❖ Rest often and eat well
- ❖ Keep a manageable schedule. Make a list and do jobs one at a time.



For More Information about flooding go to:

- ❖ www.floodsmart.gov
- ❖ www.ready.gov
- ❖ www.fema.gov
- ❖ www.redcross.org

Fun Water Facts

- There is the same amount of water on Earth as there was when the Earth was formed. The water from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank.
- A gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds
- Water expands about 9% when it freezes.
- A family of four uses, on average, 200 gallons of water per day (national average)
- A faucet dripping at one drip per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year.
- The human body is 66% water.
- A chicken is 75% water.
- A tomato is 95% water.
- It takes 2,072 gallons of water to make four new tires.
- The first water pipes in the U.S. were made of fire charred or bored logs.



- A person can live without food, but only about a week without water.
- Water heating accounts for 19% of home energy use.
- A garden hose discharges up to 6.5 gallons of water per minute under standard household water pressure.
- On average, you use 2 gallons of water to brush your teeth.

B P C A H I J W A T E R V
 N C E I S A N D B A G S M
 F L O O D M A C H Q D T P
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| 1. FLOOD | 11. ROAD |
| 2. WATER | 12. HOUSE |
| 3. DANGER | 13. RIVER |
| 4. SANDBAGS | 14. STREAM |
| 5. RADIO | 15. VEHICLE |
| 6. FLASH | 16. LEVEE |
| 7. POLICE | 17. CLOUDS |
| 8. BATTERIES | 18. CAR |
| 9. RAIN | 19. WIND |
| 10. DAMAGE | 20. SAFE |