



IN THE NEWS
LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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For Immediate Release

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Protecting Local Residents: Flood Watch

Mount Morris, NY – Livingston County is aware of the possible excessive rainfall and flash flooding that may be caused by the severe storm activity throughout our region. At this time, we are issuing a flood watch throughout the county.

To make sure you are prepared in case of emergency, you can:

- **Create a Communications Plan:** Know how you will contact your friends and family in the event of a disaster where power and/or cellular service is interrupted.
- **Assemble an Emergency Kit:** Have enough food, water, and medicine to last at least three days. Batteries, blankets, flashlights, first aid kit, rubber boots, rubber gloves, and Weather or battery operated radio are also good to have on hand.
- **Know Your Risk:** Is your home, school, or business in an area that is likely to flood? Are the roadways you use likely to collect water? What is the fastest path to higher ground?
- **Prepare Your Home:** Sandbags or other materials can create a barrier against flood waters, a well-maintained plumbing system is less likely to back up the drains in your home, and flood insurance can mitigate damage after a crisis.
- **Prepare Your Family/Pets:** If a storm is certain, pack in advance. Don't wait until the last minute to gather your family's essentials.
- **Charge Your Devices:** Make sure your cell phone and other important devices are charged in case of a loss of power. Back-up batteries are a good addition to your Emergency Kit!
- **Leave:** If your home is flooding, you do not need to wait for an evacuation order to seek shelter- make alternative plans for a place to stay.

We are advising residents to identify higher ground in case of emergency and to continue checking the media for emergency information. Please follow instructions by your public safety officials. If evacuation is ordered, please only take essential items and pets if safe to do so.

If you must evacuate or are traveling during flooding, remember:

- Do not walk through flowing water. Most drownings occur during flash floods. Six inches of swiftly moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Remember the phrase "Turn Around, Don't Drown!" Do not drive through flooded roads. Cars can be swept away in only two feet of moving water. If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay in the vehicle. If the water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.
 - Even standing water can lift your vehicle off the roadway at high speeds- travel wet roads slowly and with caution.
- Do not drive around road barriers. Roads and bridges may be washed out or structurally unsound.
- Stay away from downed utility wires. Always assume a downed power line is live. Electrocution is also a serious danger in floods as electrical currents can travel through water.

For details about Livingston County's emergency notification system, Hyper Reach, including how to sign up for notifications, visit: www.livingstoncountyny.gov/849/hyper-reach-Emergency-Notification-System.

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