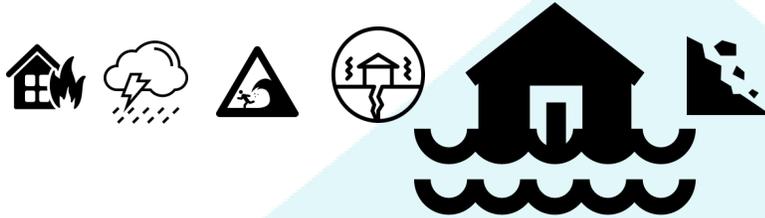


Emergency Preparedness Floods



U. S. Department of State

Are you prepared for an emergency?



It's easy to think "It won't happen to me,"
until it actually does.

Have a plan and know what to do.

Special points of interest:

- Protect Yourself Before, During, and after a Flood.
- Emergency Supplies
- Emergency Phone Numbers

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Contact Information

American Citizen Services

Tel: 2501-2628



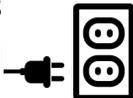
What is a Flood?

Flooding, or “Inundación” in Spanish, is the temporary overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry.

Flooding may happen with only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Flooding can occur slowly over many days or happen very quickly with little or no warning, these are called flash floods. There are many possible causes of floods, including heavy rain, coastal storms and storm surge, blocked drainage, or overflow of levees, dams, or waste water systems.

In El Salvador, floods often occur when there is heavy rain. Floods typically do not last long, yet cause a lot of damage to houses, roads, and buildings. The most affected places are rural areas where houses are not built to withstand flooding.

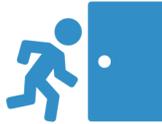
BEFORE THE FLOOD

- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect property from flood damage. 
- Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted. 
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires, explosions, and electrocution. 
- Turn on your TV/radio to receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions. 
- Know where to go and what to do. Make a family plan for evacuation, you may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot. 
- Build an emergency preparedness kit and restock it regularly. 
- Keep documents, money, and medicine in plastic bags. 



During

- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Listen to authorities and safety officials. Evacuated if directed.
- Move immediately to higher ground.



After

- Stay away from flood water. It could be contaminated, meaning it contains dangerous substances.
- Stay away from moving water. It can knock you off your feet.
- Stay out of the way of emergency workers so they can do their job.
- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded, specially under bridges.
- Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

Basic Safety Tips

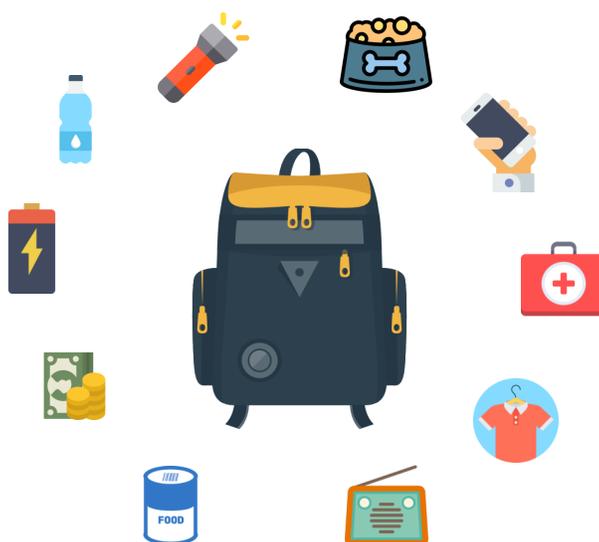
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Do not drive over bridges that are over fast-moving floodwaters. If authorities close a bridge or road, listen to those warnings. Floodwaters can scour foundation material from around the footings and make the bridge unstable.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away. Don't Risk It!
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.



Store Emergency Supplies

Take the time to put together the emergency supplies you would need if your power and the water supply is cut off and if the supermarkets do not open. You can accumulate your supplies over time by adding some items as your budget allows. Basic emergency supplies should include the following items, most of which you probably already have at home.

If possible, consider storing supplies in different places. Keep a small kit of basic supplies of food and water in various locations, including your workplace, your vehicle and, if possible, other places where you or your family members regularly spend time (e.g. community center and school).



Water: Make sure you have at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days. (If possible, store a water supply for more than 3 days). An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of fluids daily. Individual needs vary depending on age, health, activity level, food choices and climate. You may also need to store water to prepare food.

Food: Take at least a 3 day supply of non-perishable food on hand for each family member, including pets. Observe special dietary requirements (e.g. formula for babies). Include a manual can opener for canned foods.

Flashlight, Radio, and Cellphone charger: You will need to be able to charge these items without electricity. Your flashlight and radio should operate with crank or batteries, and should be stored with additional batteries. Your cell phone charger must be crank, solar or chargeable with a car outlet.

Medical supplies: Include a first aid kit, prescription / over-the-counter medications, and other medical supplies.

Hygiene: Pack disinfecting supplies such as hand sanitizer, wipes, paper products and plastic bags to use when water resources are limited.

Clothing and Maintenance: Make sure you have long-sleeved clothing and long pants, thick-soled shoes and work gloves to protect you from an earthquake, and a warm sleeping bag or blanket for each person if you live in a cold climate.

Whistle: Include a whistle for help.

Cash: Store cash in case ATMs do not operate after a flood.



Emergency Services in El Salvador

There are several Salvadoran institutions who respond to emergencies such as floods and provide service to the community during and after an emergency. Some of these institutes include the Green Cross, Red Cross, Protección civil, and MARN (El Salvador's Ministry Environment and Natural Resources)

Protección civil is the national system that prevents and mitigates disasters in El Salvador.



MARN is the acronym for El Salvador's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. MARN is in charge of environmental assessment. In addition, the ministry is responsible for promoting international cooperation on environmental issues.



The Green Cross is a Salvadoran organization that provides disaster assistance, including rescue operations.



The Red Cross a well known international organization that also provides disaster assistance.



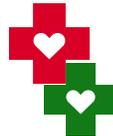
Emergency Numbers



Local Police

Speed dial **911** or visit the [nation-wide directory](#) to call a specific PNC delegation.

Website: [Policia Nacional Civil](#)



Salvadoran Red Cross

dial 2222-5155

Website: [Red Cross](#)

Salvadoran Green Cross

Dial 2284-5792

Website: [Green Cross](#)



Fire Fighter Department:

Dial 913 or 2527-7300, you may also see visit their [phone directory](#) on line.

Website: [Bomberos de El Salvador](#)



Protección civil:

Dial 2527-7122

Website: [Protección Civil](#)



**U.S Embassy in El Salvador
American Citizen Services**

Dial 2501 2628

Email: ACSSANSAL@State.gov

Local Hospital: _____

Family: _____

School: _____

Work: _____

Neighbors: _____

Veterinarian: _____



Emergency Kit Checklist

Food and Water

- Canned Food
- Energy Bars
- Dried Food
- Water for 3 days
- Candies and Crackers

For Babies

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Medication

Sanitation

- Toilet Paper
- Soap
- Feminine Supplies
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste

Tools and Supplies

- Flashlight
- Extra Batteries
- Cash
- Utility Knife
- Whistle
- Cellphone
- Battery-operated Radio
- Solar Charger
- Crank/ Solar operated Radio
- Solar Charger

Documents

- Passports
- Emergency phone numbers
- Credit Card
- Personal documents

Clothes & Bedding

- A complete change of clothing including footwear.

First aid Kit

- Bandages
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gauze Pads
- Gauze Roll(s)
- Scissors
- Cold Packs
- Ibuprofen
- Aspirin
- Tylenol
- Bug Spray
- Alcohol
- Antibiotic
- Cotton Swabs
- Tweezers
- Elastic Bandages
- Allergy medicine
- Thermometer
- Prescription Medicine



Floods



Enroll in STEP

STEP:

- ✓ **Smart**
- ✓ **Traveler**
- ✓ **Enrollment**
- ✓ **Program**



What is STEP?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. Citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Benefits of Enrolling in STEP

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with



Click on the pictures above to learn more about your situation and register in STEP.

Stay Informed, Stay Connected, Stay Safe!