



Residential Construction Site Safety Checklist

Steps to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a construction site flood event:

Plan

1. Be aware of the higher likelihood of flooding during spring rain season, and snow melt periods. During these periods, keep any valuable items off the floor and out of harm's way or remove them from lower levels altogether.
2. Review the conditions around your property and ensure that the grade allows for unimpeded drainage and slopes away from structures. Review your roof drains, gutters and downspouts to ensure the storm water has a clear route to a gravity drainage system.
3. Establish an evacuation plan so you are prepared to act on it if needed.
4. If you have a wet basement or crawl space, check for leaks around your foundation walls and consider installing a sump pump.
5. Review the age and performance of a sump pump and check valve in your basement or crawl space. If the pump is more than three years old, it is best to proactively replace it rather than take the chance on a mechanical failure. Pumps and the labor to install them can be more cost effective compared to the loss experienced resulting from a flood.
6. Plan for power outages as significant rain events and spring windstorms can cause interrupted power service. This will disable your sump pump as the water table rises below the ground and could cause a flood. Have a generator with an adequate amount of fuel available to power the circuit of your sump pump.
7. Have a secondary sump pump with an alarm installed. These can run off the public water supply and are designed to discharge more water than they bring into the sump. Battery back-up secondary pumps are also available, though they rely solely on the battery. During longer power outages, these systems are less dependable.

Floods can be very dangerous; they could cause massive damage and significant delay to your residential construction project. Being prepared is essential to reducing the negative consequences of flooding.

8. If you have doors near areas where water could intrude your property, consider having tubular sand containment bags on hand. These lighter tubular bags are cost effective and can be helpful to contain and redirect water as it rises.
9. Keep flashlights, a shop vac, buckets and other miscellaneous supplies handy to use as necessary.
10. Have a plan for temporary heat. Warm temperatures rarely accompany flood season and during a power outage your typical heat source will not operate. Make preparations for appropriate temporary heat.

Protect

1. Keep an eye on the drainage route from the roof all the way to the gravity drainage system and remove any obstacles which might have moved in the way of positive drainage. If you can safely remove ice or small branches causing a drainage obstruction, you might avoid considerable damage as the event continues.
2. Monitor the water level in your sump pit and the frequency the pump is discharging water. If the mechanical float becomes stuck, often times you can nudge the float and keep the pump working until it can be replaced.
3. Be prepared to use your generator to support your sump pump circuit if needed during an electrical outage.
4. Be available to place or relocate the tubular sand containment bags to contain and redirect water as needed.

Respond

1. Once it is safe to do so, review the property for damage caused by high water. This could include downed trees due to saturated soils, washed out foundations and other damages to your property.
2. Continue to clear any obstructions from the drainage path as the event might persist. Water could continue to drain from higher areas of the property or another round of rain could be coming after the one just experienced.
3. Make sure you have a path to evacuate the property, as there could be obstructions in your typical route to safety.
4. Review the conditions of your mechanical equipment such as your fire suppression system, HVAC equipment, and electrical panels to determine if a licensed professional needs to make repairs.