If you see a Flood Watch or Flood Warning online or broadcast on television, or you see that bad weather and heavy rain is on the way, do you know what to do?

Stay informed about possible floods and the risk of flash flooding.

Make sure your neighbours are aware of the risk and are taking action to be prepared.

Check your emergency kit and make sure your clothes are ready and that you know where you will go.

If there is a flood emergency, personnel from the emergency services may tell you to evacuate.

There are two levels of evacuation announcements.

The first level is to Prepare To Evacuate.

The second level is to Evacuate Immediately.

If you need to Prepare to Evacuate, you must act quickly as lives may be at risk,

and your property may be at risk of damage. You need to be ready to leave early.

Position your car facing your exit and open your access gate.

Pack your emergency kit, clothing, computer and any other items into your car. Relocate any animals to higher ground for their safety.

Move any stock feed, machinery, electrical appliances and hazardous chemicals up high above the ground.

Tell your neighbours you are leaving and where you will go, so they can contact you if necessary.

Lock all your windows and doors to prevent people breaking into your home.

Turn off your gas and electricity at the mains.

Leave via your safest route and avoid any flooded areas.

You may decide to stay with family, friends or an Emergency Relief Centre if available.

If you decide not to stay at an Emergency Relief Centre, let them know and give them your contact details so they can contact you if necessary.

If you need to Evacuate Immediately, you must leave straight away.

There will be no time to make any preparations such as relocating your animals.

If your emergency kit is ready, you can take it with you when you evacuate.

During an evacuation, it is vital that you follow instructions from emergency services personnel.

If not, you may be putting yourself and other people at risk of harm.

Your safest option is to leave early and go somewhere safe away from the flood. If you leave too late, you may be stuck and isolated by the flood for several days. Even minor floods can be dangerous.

If you drive through flood water, you may have an accident because you cannot see what is underneath. Never drive, ride or walk through flood water. The main cause of death during a flood is people driving, riding or walking through flood.

Never allow children to play in flood water. The main cause of death for children during a flood is from playing in flood water.

Stay away from drains, rivers, creeks or other waterways during a flood. Flood water may look calm on the surface, but there may be hazards underneath, such as strong currents that can suck you under water.

Stay alert to any hazards such as falling trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.

Remember your safest option is to leave early.