

# Water WoRDs

## *Updates from the Water Resources Division*



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### **Additional Tips about Flood Conditions**

Following up on our [ice jam post from late January](#), we are providing a bit more information, courtesy of the Water Resources Division's (WRD) Hydrologic Studies and Dam Safety Unit. We have enjoyed the brief warm-up this week (despite news that another "polar vortex" may be headed our way). Springtime in the WRD means "All hands on deck!" as all this snow begins melting and our fellow citizens pick up the phone to share various concerns.



*The WRD closely communicates with dam owners and emergency management officials during flood events to assure adequate protection of public safety and infrastructure.*

Throughout the year, the Hydrologic Studies and Dam Safety Unit is in close communication with the National Weather Service (NWS), monitoring conditions, and working with our state and federal partners to keep Michiganders safe as waters start to rise. Those efforts really ramp up this time of year and our team has been especially busy this week. They took some time to share the following tips with our Water WoRDs readers as the snow begins to melt:

- Uncover and clear catchbasins, yard drains, drainage structures, or detention pond outlets affecting property.

- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts and address ice dams, including hiring a professional to clear particularly bad accumulations of ice.
- Make sure your sump pump is working (if you have one) and consider installing a battery operated backup in the event of a loss of power. Installing a water alarm will also let you know if water is accumulating in your basement. It's always a good idea to move items up off the floor to protect them from potential infiltration of floodwaters or rising groundwater in the basement.

For those living in or near a floodplain:

- In the event of a sudden warm-up, especially one accompanied by rain, listen to NWS forecasts for flood related advisories or warnings. Not sure what all the threat levels mean?
  - Flood Watch: flooding is possible in your area.
  - Flash Flood: rapid flooding, usually in low lying areas.
  - Flash Flood Watch: flash flooding is possible in your area.
  - Flood Warning: flooding is occurring, or will occur, in your area. Move to higher ground and listen to local media for evacuation orders.
  - Flash Flood Warning: a flash flood is occurring. Seek higher ground and listen to local media for evacuation orders.
- Anchor outdoor items that may float away, such as fuel tanks, boats, or lawn furniture left outside.
- If flooding appears likely, move valuable items and family heirlooms to the upper floors of the home or building.
- Take an inventory of your belongings and make an emergency plan for you and your family, including evacuation routes. Check on your neighbors, friends, and family, especially the elderly and others who may require assistance, should evacuation become necessary.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance to protect your property from future flooding events.

Finally, our number one tip during flooding events: Use common sense and be safe!