

## HEAVY RAIN STORMS

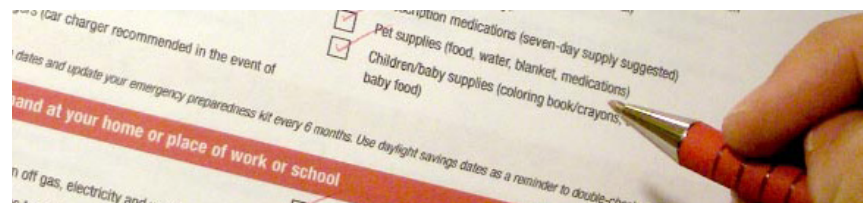


Last week, you learned about the hazards of windstorms and precautions you should take during power outages to keep safe. Different types of wild Northwest winter weather require different precautions. Today, let's take a look at how you can be prepared for heavy rainstorms.

Whether it's a torrential downpour or a prolonged rainfall buildup lasting several days, heavy rains impact people, homes and the land they sit on differently based on the location. Below are some of the risks associated with a heavy rainstorm:

- Street flooding, causing deep, standing puddles on roadways and dangerous driving conditions
- Basement flooding, causing loss of valuables and dangerous situations
- Transportation routes affected by flooding over roadways and landslides
- Evacuation orders due to flooding rivers
- Damaged buildings due to severe flooding
- Landslides causing severe damage, even loss, to homes
- Prolonged power outages due to downed lines caused by landslides and flooding rivers

Be prepared for a rainstorm by watching weather forecasts with your family for the potential of heavy rains or rainfall buildup over multiple days. Keep rain gear, water-repellent clothing and extra warm clothing handy at home and in your family's vehicle to use in an emergency.



Use Take Winter By Storm checklists to prepare **prior** to winter storms. You can find detailed lists, Emergency Contact Cards in multiple languages, and additional resources and tips in our Teacher's Guide at [seattletimes.com/NIE](http://seattletimes.com/NIE) and at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org).

## DRAINAGE/LANDSLIDES



### WHEELLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Keep it moving! Don't let water build up on roads and property. Rake and shovel leaves and debris away from storm drains and ditches to keep water draining.

- Help keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris to avoid flooding streets and damage to personal property.
- Watch the patterns of stormwater drainage on slopes near your home, and note places where runoff water converges.
- Grade property so water drains away from the foundation and downspouts direct water away from the property into the storm drainage system.
- Ask your family to double-check their homeowner's policy to see whether stormwater damage is covered. If not, add this coverage.
- Watch the hills around your home for any signs of land movement, such as small landslides, debris flows or progressively tilting trees. If necessary, ask your family to contact your local geotechnical or structural engineer to determine the severity of the problem.



### WHEELLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Turn around! Don't drown! Flooded areas could be much deeper than you think. Don't take a chance by walking or driving through flooded areas. Turn around and move to higher ground.



## FLOODING

- Turn around! Don't drown! Never walk or drive through flooded roads or areas. You can't always tell how deep the water might be, if a road has been washed away or if there are hazards beneath the surface.
- Report flooding drains and streets as soon as possible.
- Store valuables on high shelves on a ground floor or on the top floors of your home to avoid water damage.
- Stay out of flooding basements. Flooding basements can cause electrocution by live electrical currents and drowning due to an unforeseen flash flood or mud slide.
- If you live, work or go to school near rivers that are prone to flooding, be prepared and know several routes to higher ground. Have an emergency kit ready to grab and go in case of evacuation.
- Homeowners, renters and businesses should purchase flood insurance.
- Be safe. Follow evacuation and other official directions during flood emergencies.

- Update your pet's ID tag and/or get them micro chipped. In case you need to evacuate and you are separated from your pet, this will make finding them easier.
- Choose an out-of-state contact for your family and make sure everyone knows who that person is and how to contact them. Practice making contact with your out-of-state contact prior to an emergency.
- Got sandbags? If you live in an area that typically floods, you should prepare sandbags to place around your home in case the need arises.
- Sign up for flood alerts. Got to [takewinterbystorm.org](http://takewinterbystorm.org) and click on the Alerts button to find alerts in your area.

SCHEDULE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Columbus Day Storm/emergency preparedness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Windstorms and power outages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heavy rainstorms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snow, ice and freezing temperatures



**COMING SOON!**  
In next week's Take Winter By Storm issue, we'll share strategies to help you prepare for snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

Take Winter By Storm is a collaborative, public-private effort between King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, the City of Seattle, Puget Sound Energy, State Farm, National Weather Service/NOAA, American Red Cross, Bartell Drugs and various local retailers — which represent Washington state's largest counties, city emergency-management offices and energy utilities; the leading insurer of homes and automobiles; weather forecasters; first responders during natural disasters; and local businesses. These organizations have joined forces in this major public-education program to raise community awareness of hazardous weather and help protect lives and property.



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