


## **FLOOD SAFETY:**



**Do not walk through flowing water:** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.

**Do not drive through a flooded area:** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

**Stay away from power lines and electrical wires:** The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company. Have your electricity turned off by the Power Company. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.

**Be alert for gas leaks:** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

## **PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES:**

Every year, flooding in the United States causes more property damage than any other type of natural disaster. While recent improvements in construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flood damage, there are homes in Gwinnett County that are susceptible to flood losses. The flooding to these properties can be minimized through temporary and permanent retrofitting techniques. Call the Department of Planning and Development at 678-518-6000 for more information.

- One approach is to keep water away from your house by constructing a floodwall or earthen berm. These methods are accepted if you have a large lot, if the flooding isn't too deep and if your property is not in the floodway.
- Another approach is to waterproof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method should be used on homes with basements or if water will not get over two feet deep.



- A third approach is to raise your house above the flood level. Measures to protect a property from flooding damage include retrofitting, grading a yard, correcting local drainage problems, and emergency measures such as moving furniture

Visit [www.gwinnettstormwater.com](http://www.gwinnettstormwater.com) for more information.