



HOME EVACUATION INFORMATION

If evacuation is, or may be, recommended due to flooding, following are a few important steps to prepare your home before evacuating. If you receive an emergency alert to evacuate, take your emergency go-kit and get out as soon as possible. If time permits, complete the following steps to secure your home:

- **Use a smartphone or camera take a video or photo inventory of the contents of your home**, go room to room, backup these files to a flash drive if you can
- **Stock Up on Water**
Find all water bottles, empty gallon jugs and other containers in your house and fill them with water before shutting off your water supply.
- **Charge Electronics in Advance**
With your electricity off, you'll have a hard time charging your hand-held devices. Charge all tablets, cell phones and radios, and keep extra batteries on hand. When your hand-held devices aren't in use, keep them off or at least in low-battery mode to keep them operational for as long as possible. Do not use your mobile devices for entertainment, but for informational and communication purposes only.
- **Fuel your car**

Inside: Move into Upper Floors

- Move furniture (if possible), valuable items and important papers you're not taking with you to upper floors, to save them from flood waters
- Store valuables and important documents in waterproof containers
- Elevate furniture that cannot be moved to a higher floor
- Roll up area rugs and store them vertically. These will become floor sponges and hold water in place if left flat
- Toxic chemicals like cleaning products can pollute water in the lower floors, making your home dangerous to walk through for you and first responders. Move cleaning products and other chemicals into the upper floors or several feet off the ground – a countertop or dining table.
- Unplug all electronics and small appliances and move them to upper floors or elevate on a high countertop or table, they need to be several feet off the ground
- Elevate anything that rusts or corrodes

Outdoor Equipment & Boat, Dock Weight Tie Down

- Tie off any totes or barrels being used to weigh down docks as these items can float away as water rises and can pose a number of serious hazards. Properly secure these items to a tree or other non-mobile option
- Store any outdoor furniture, toys or equipment or properly secure these items so they do not float away, get tossed by winds or become debris
- If you have a boat or floating dock, moor it securely or move it to a safe place
- Clean up your yard and remove any dead branches to reduce debris that could cause additional damage
- Clear drains of debris and leaves

UTILITIES

If evacuating your home, turn off all utilities including **gas, electricity and water** at the main valve/switch and close the main gas valve. Residents who get their water from the City of Ranier, contact Ranier Public Works at 218-286-3311 to notify of evacuation and water shut-off.

Electricity

- Safeguard your electrical appliances and equipment by unplugging them
- Turn off the electricity at the main breaker
- **Do not touch electrical equipment if wet**

Water (City of Ranier water customers, contact Ranier Public Works at 218-286-3311 to notify of evacuation and water shut-off)

- Turn off water at the main shut-off. Pipes inside the house can burst during a flood. Leaving your water on can only make flooding worse.
- In many homes, the shut-off valve for water will be located in the basement or outside beneath a water meter grate. If you don't have a water key to access the shut-off valve, check local hardware store if time permits or you can try using pliers or a screwdriver.
- Pipes inside the house can burst during a flood. Leaving your water on can only make flooding worse.

Prepare for a Sewer Back Up

- You can remove any toilets from the lower floors of your home and plug their sewer drain.
- If toilets cannot be removed, you can fill a gallon Ziploc bag with sand and place it in the tank of your toilet(s) on lower floors, place another baggie of sand on top of the sand-filled gallon bag inside the tank to help prevent sewer back-up
- If eaves trough is connected to your sewer line, disconnect the eaves trough, then plug the hole to prevent sewage from entering your home. If you can't find a plug that will fit your eaves trough connection, use sandbags or polyethylene barriers.
- Plug any floor drains in the basement.

Information from North Koochiching Area Sanitary District

To help you (and us) with sewer issues here are a few items for you to be aware of as we (NKASD) are experiencing an emergency situation as well.

- *If you or someone you know has sump pumps going into the sewer, it has to be reported or fixed.*
- *If you know of any clean outs that are open to the sewer, please report it.*
- *Please sandbag your grinder to help keep water from seeping in. Put plastic down first and then sandbag it. A sump pump may be put on the outside of your grinder to pump water away from the top of the grinder.*
- *Monitor your sewer drains for back-ups.*
- *Watch for red lights/alarms on lift stations and report them.*
- *If not evacuating, please limit your water usage. Try to limit washing clothes, flushing toilets, running water.*

We thank you for your efforts. For further information or questions, you may call NKASD Plant at 218-283-4748 or NKASD Office at 218-283-9388 or the Fire Hall at 218-283-2929. Leave messages with Name, Address, Phone Number, and a detailed message.

Propane Tanks & Natural Gas

- Elevate your furnace if possible
- Turn off your furnace and outside gas valve to prevent a gas leak in your home.
- **Take a picture of your propane tank manufacture's nameplate** – a good way to identify it in case your tank is recovered after floating away.
- Secure your above ground LP Gas tank to a nearby sturdy tree with a chain or cable by running it through the legs or lifting lugs of the tank.
- Close the propane tank service valve by turning the handwheel clockwise. If you close off propane tanks, be sure to turn off propane appliances.
- After closing the service valve, close the dome cover and secure it shut with a bolt or pin.
- Move smaller propane cylinders to a location where they will not be affected by high water and subject to floating. **DO NOT** relocate cylinders to a garage or indoors.
- Contact your propane provider ASAP if your tank is being affected due to the rising water levels.

Minnesota Energy Resources (gas company) Emergency Line: [800-889-4970](tel:800-889-4970), Residential Service Line: 800-889-9508 (24 hrs)
Lakes Gas 218-283-3035, Ferrellgas 218-326-1291, Rainy Lake Oil 218-283-4477, Cooperative Service Inc 218-634-1313

Pets

- Have a plan for your pets.
- If it is not safe for you to remain at home, it is not safe for your pets.
- Pet sheltering is available

Shelter Info & Temporary Evacuation Check-In Point

Sheltering is available through the Red Cross in conjunction with the Koochiching County Emergency Operations Center. If you need shelter, contact the Evacuation & Shelter Hotline at 218-283-6755.

The Temporary Evacuation Check-in Point (TECP) remains open at the Backus Community Center, 900 5th St, International Falls. Anyone who evacuates their home is asked to check in at the TECP so that residents can be accounted for, regardless if you need sheltering.

Stop your mail – It is a good idea to place a hold on mail if you have evacuated. Contact the USPS at 1 800-275-8777