

Prevention

POWER

How To Reduce Disaster Damage

F L O O D S

Rising water doesn't always give notice, and when a flood hits, it's too late to protect your home and belongings. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's *Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities* offers preventative steps homeowners, communities and businesses can take to reduce disruption and loss before disaster strikes. You can't prevent the weather, but... you can prevent the damage.

Tips anyone can tackle:

- Know your risk – contact your local emergency management office or building department or visit the *Project Impact* Web site at www.fema.gov/impact to learn about potential risk areas for your community.
- Store important documents and photos above potential flood waters.
- Promptly and properly dispose of hazardous materials.
- Talk with an insurance agent to ensure that you have adequate flood insurance.
- If you note drainage problems after a heavy rain, let your public works department know. Ditches or the storm sewer may need to be cleaned.

Tips a do-it-yourselfer can tackle:

- Elevate the washer and dryer and other appliances in the basement on masonry or pressure treated lumber or relocate to a higher floor.
- Avoid finishing off areas (like basements) that may be prone to flooding.

Tips that require an expert's help:

Project Impact strongly recommends that homeowners hire or consult a qualified professional for assistance with the following prevention measures:

- Elevate the main breaker or fuse box.
- Elevate heating, cooling and ventilating equipment.
- Install backflow valves in waste lines.
- Anchor or elevate fuel tanks.
- Elevate and securely anchor manufactured homes.

ABOUT PROJECT IMPACT: Since its inception in 1997, 250 communities representing over 900 jurisdictions and 2,500 business partners have embraced *Project Impact*. Instead of waiting for disasters to occur, *Project Impact* communities plan mitigation projects, develop private and public partnerships, initiate mentoring relationships, and conduct public outreach to reduce damage from potentially devastating disasters. Previous community projects have included creating disaster resistance strategies, revising local building and land use codes, and passing bond issues to construct prevention measures that will impact the entire community.



For more information about *Project Impact* or preventing damage, call your local emergency manager, *Project Impact* community coordinator or FEMA's *Project Impact* at (202) 646-4117 or visit www.fema.gov/impact.