



Creating a Flood Emergency Plan

Prepared by Child Care Aware® of North Dakota

Why create a flood plan?

Creating a flood plan will help you, the child care program operator, be better prepared for a flood emergency. A flood plan is a document that you create as you think through important issues, ask yourself questions and make plans so you can respond quickly in the event of a flood near your program. Advance planning will afford you extra critical time and less confusion during a flood emergency.

Questions to ask when developing a flood plan:

At what river level does our property begin to flood?

The first step is to determine "Your Flood Number." This can be accomplished by visiting a website that allows you to enter your program address and alternate/emergency location address to determine the chance of flooding. An example of a website for the city of Fargo is: <http://gis.cityoffargo.com/FargoFloodStages/FargoFloodApp.html>. Your community or county may have a similar resource. You can also visit the National Weather Service's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services website to learn the flood stage at the stream gage nearest you.

An additional step would be to talk with your neighbors to find out how high the river was during recent floods, and at what point flooding began in your neighborhood. Each neighborhood and each property has its own unique terrain and placement to consider when determining this factor, and it is safest to err on the side of caution.

How will we find out about a coming flood?

As a child care center operator, you need to be in a position to get some advance warning of an unfolding situation. It is important to sign up for flood alerts; this can be done with the National Weather Service. You will want to monitor weather patterns and local conditions through a website such as NOAA Watch. In addition, FEMA has general flood hazard maps online which serve as a starting point for determining your child care program's relationship to nearby waterways.

At what point, may we have to relocate or close our program?

Once you have determined "Your Flood Number" you will need to make a decision on how you will respond at different flood stages, ranging from minimal risk to critical risk. Go to "Emergency Closing Considerations" document at <http://www.ndchildcare.org/providers/emergency-disaster/floods.html> for further assistance

How will I inform parents and staff of our overall flood plan?

Communication with parents and staff will be key when implementing a flood plan. Your flood plan should include center/provider responsibilities and family responsibilities so that everyone knows what is expected of them during a flood emergency.

How will I set up an emergency notification system?

What is the best mode of communication for families and staff?

Having your families complete a "Family Survey for Flood Emergency" is an excellent way to start gathering parents contact information. Typical means of communication include child care website, email, text messaging and phone. Determine the quickest, most reliable means of communication for your child care and document that in your plan.

NOTE: A sample Family Survey and completed Flood Plan is provided on next page.

Sample Family Survey for Flood Emergency

Please complete the following information to aid us in developing plans for a possible flood emergency.

Return this survey by: _____

Child's Name(s): _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name(s): _____

What is the best way to contact you in a flood emergency?

Emergency email address: _____

Emergency phone number: _____ cell home work
(check type of phone)

Alternate emergency email address: _____

Alternate emergency phone number: _____ cell home work
(check type of phone)

In the event of a flood emergency, which family member should be contacted first?

Do you have texting capabilities on your phone?

Does your place of dwelling have a history of flooding issues?

Do you know at what point you would evacuate your children?

Do high waters and/or flood preparations make it difficult for you to get to work?
If yes, please describe (ex. levees, blocked roads, etc)

If the child care program loses staff because of a flood emergency and we cannot maintain ratios, do you have alternative care?

If an official declares non-essential businesses to close, how will your need for child will care be affected?