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## *Flood/Flash Flood/Dam Failure*

Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States can experience some degree of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws.

Most floods develop slowly over a period of days. Flash floods, however, are like walls of water that develop in a matter of minutes. Flash floods can be caused by intense storms or dam failure.

**Flood Watch**—Flooding is possible. Stay tuned to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) radio. Be prepared to evacuate. Tune to local radio and television stations for additional information.

**Flood Warning**—Flooding is already occurring or will occur soon. Take precautions at once. Be prepared to go to higher ground. If advised, evacuate immediately.

### *Planning Considerations for Floods*

- Consult with \_\_\_\_\_ (county name) Emergency Management officials if facility is located in a flood plain and to review the history of flooding in the area
- Purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery backup. Listen for flood watches and warnings
- Review the community's emergency plan. Learn the community's evacuation routes. Know where to find higher ground in case of a flood
- Inspect areas that may be subject to flooding. Identify records and equipment that can be moved to a higher location. Make plans to move records and equipment in case of flood

Ensure insurance policy provides coverage for flooding. Evaluate the feasibility of flood proofing your facility.

### \_\_\_\_\_ (facility name) *Emergency Procedure* **FLOODING**

The following procedure shall be utilized in the event of flooding, flash floods, dam break near \_\_\_\_\_ (facility name).

The following procedure shall be utilized when a **flood watch** or **warning** has been issued.

A **watch** indicates that flooding is likely.

A **warning** indicates flooding is occurring in the area.

- A. "CODE GREEN, a flood/flash flood **watch** or **warning** has been issued for this area effective until \_\_\_\_\_ (time watch ends). A **flood watch** means that current weather conditions may produce flooding. A **flood warning** indicates that flooding is occurring in the area. Please await further instructions."
- B. Administrator and Director of Nursing \_\_\_\_\_ (facility to fill in appropriate titles/positions) will be notified if not on the premises. The Recall Roster shall be activated if needed.
- C. Facility management staff should report to the Incident Command Post for a briefing and instruction.