

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2017

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Flood Awareness/Prevention Tips

Ways to Prevent Floods and Sewer Backups, Protect your Property and Possessions, and Respond if an Event Occurs

CINCINNATI – Floods in your home can be caused by a number of events, including street or overland flow of rainwater, clogs or breaks in your private building sewer, or sewer backups from the public sewer.

Here are some **tips** for preventing floods and sewer backups, protecting your property and belongings, and responding if an event occurs:

PREVENT

- **Clean your gutters:** Remove leaves and debris that can clog gutters and drains.
- **Make sure your building sewer is in good working order.** A building sewer is the underground sewer pipe that connects the plumbing in your home to MSD's public sewer. Property owners are responsible for keeping building sewers clear of clogs and breaks.
- **Buy a sump pump:** Consider installing a sump pump with a battery backup. The sump pump will gather water runoff and pump it to the exterior of your home, away from your foundation.
- **Install a backup prevention device.** Talk to a plumber about installing a sewer backflow valve in your drain line. A backflow valve can help prevent the risk of sewage backing up into your home when street sewers are not able to handle the flow of waste and rain water.

- **Install new foundation drains.**
- **Waterproof your basement.**
- **Change the slope of your yard away from your house.**
- **Contact MSD at (513) 352-4288 if you've experienced multiple sewer backups caused by the public sewer in the last five years.** You may be eligible for a backup prevention device.

PROTECT

- **Obtain flood insurance and/or a sewer backup rider on your insurance policy.** Review your coverage annually.
- **Elevate, elevate, elevate.** Elevate important possessions or store them somewhere other than the basement. Elevate water heaters, furnaces, washers and dryers and anchor them if needed.
- **Keep pets out of your basement.** If your basement frequently floods, please keep pets safe and out of the area.
- **Photograph and document items in your basement.**

RESPOND

- **Call your insurance agency first if you have coverage.**
- **If you have experienced a sewer backup, report the incident to MSD within 24 hours of the event:**
 - **Phone:** 513-352-4900
 - **Online:** sbu.msdcg.org
- **Contact a cleanup contractor (you may be eligible for a free cleanup or reimbursement from MSD).**
- **Document your property damage.** Photograph the flooded area and create an inventory list of personal property that is damaged or destroyed.
- **File a claim with your insurance agent.**
- **File a claim with MSD if the backup was caused by the public sewer.**

For more information on the difference between overland flooding, issues with private building sewers, and sewer backups from the public sewer, please visit MSD's Sewer Backup website at: sbu.msdcg.org.

A variety of resources, including brochures and videos, are available on the Resource page at: <http://sbu.msdcg.org/sbu/page/resources.aspx>.

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