

Office of the Chief Executive

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PUBLIC NOTICE

04th December 2019

Be extra careful during flooding and periods of strong winds during the rainy season

The City of Windhoek hereby cautions residents and visitors that, as the rainy season continues, Windhoek might be affected by flash floods, accompanied by strong winds.

What Is a flash flood?

Flash floods usually result from intense storms, dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period of time. Flash floods appear with little or no warning and can reach full peak in only a few minutes. Communities particularly at risk are those located in low-lying areas and along riverbeds and especially those living in informal settlements.

Mitigation measures

Mitigation includes any activities that prevent a flood, reduce the chance of it happening or lessen the damaging effects thereof. If you live in a frequently flooded area, it may be helpful to stockpile some sandbags, have some shovels and other materials ready should a flash flood or strong wind threaten your home. This is a good time to seal the roof of your house as well.

Precautions:

- People living in low-lying areas must take special care during storms, as sudden flash floods might affect them.
- Residents living next to riverbeds must move to a safe distance from it or to an elevated area as soon as the water level starts to rise.
- Never try to walk, swim or drive in fast-flowing water, even if the water appears to be shallow - it can sweep you off your feet.
- Do not try to drive over a low-water bridge if water is flowing strongly across it.
- Teach your children not to swim in riverbeds, streams and ponds in open areas.

- Keep your important documents in water-resistant containers.
- Have emergency numbers at hand.
- Make sure that you know where your family members are during flash floods (families often get separated during the day when adults are at work and children at school or at home).
- Make sure that every family member knows how to stay safe during a flood.
- Make sure all drainage systems (rivers, streams, channels and openings in boundary walls) in your area are clean of debris and garden refuse, as these will block the drainage systems and cause flooding. If you observe unclean or blocked drainage systems within the City, call the City's Roads and Storm Water division on 290 2363 during working hours. If it is after hours, call the emergency services control room on 211 111.

If in a car during a storm:

- If you approach a flooded area, turn around and go the other way.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately, climb out and move to higher ground. Lives have been lost during attempts to move stalled vehicles. Your life is more important than your car.
- Obey road traffic signs, roadblocks and instructions from law enforcement officers, at all times. Do not take risks! Do not be inquisitive at accident scenes - it hampers the efforts of emergency workers – rather move along.
- Be careful when driving on wet gravel or sandy roads. Reduce your speed and adapt your driving to the prevailing weather conditions. Go slow.

The City of Windhoek would like to assure all its residents that all is being done to mitigate and respond efficiently to possible hazards in order to protect the lives and property of all our residents.

In case of an emergency, please do not hesitate to contact our 24 hours control room on **061-211111**.

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ISSUED BY:



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