

It's raining, it's pouring... oh no, a flood warning!

kids

Living Here



Preparing for the worst!

Here are some things that you can do at home or in your community that lessen the chances of being hurt and/or your home and surroundings devastated.

Follow the lines to match the words with the picture

Move animals to higher ground

Store valuables, and some food and clothing above your likely high-water mark

Don't drink floodwater - it could be contaminated

When flood warnings are in place for your area - stay tuned to your radio

Disconnect electrical appliances if rising water threatens

Remind adults to store weed-killers and chemicals in a secure 'high and dry' place



A flood occurs when water overflows from streams, rivers and lakes and also when ocean waves come onshore. To minimise the impact of floods on our homes, businesses and the environment, flood protection systems like stopbanks are built. However, when these protection systems fail, floods can become a hazard.

A flood is a hazard that occurs naturally, just like earthquakes, tidal waves (tsunamis) and droughts. Floods can destroy precious parts of our environment and, of course, put us in danger. Flooding from Canterbury rivers is a very real threat.

The rain keeps tumbling down... what to do, what to do?

There are a number of things that you can do to protect yourselves, your loved ones and property from floods - listening to the radio for the weather forecast and flood warnings, calling the **River Info Line** (083 22 5522 - calls cost 12 cents a minute) and knowing which river might affect you during a flood. If a civil defence emergency is declared it means the flood is **threatening** to become a natural disaster and the civil defence headquarters staff will spring into action.

If you are safe at home, **stay** there. If your home is not safe and you need help you will need to find your nearest sector post. This is a shelter where **emergency services** will be set up to **assist** people in need of help. In most districts in Canterbury, your nearest sector post is your nearest state primary school. But in some areas this will be different.

Locate your town on the Canterbury map

1. What is the name of your district council?
2. Contact your district council and ask where your closest sector post is in the event of an emergency.



Well, what do we expect when we live on a floodplain!

That's right! The Canterbury Plains were formed from thousands of years of our rivers **flooding** and changing course, which they do naturally, bringing down sediment from the **mountains** and depositing it on the plains.

How can you help?

By helping your family at home to be more prepared, you can reduce their risk of danger.

With your parents or caregiver make an emergency plan for your home so that if disaster strikes you will know what to do.

Also, make sure you've prepared an emergency survival kit. Your kit needs to have most items listed below, yet remain light and easily carried.

You'll need to solve the clues to work out what some of the items are!

1. Canned or dried food
2. Bottled water
3. A small tool for opening cans? _____
4. Cooking device: primus or BBQ
5. A kit containing medical supplies? _____
6. Candles and matches/lighter
7. Provides light and is battery powered? _____
8. Emergency (portable) radio (and spare batteries)
9. A large piece of thick cloth (usually made from wool) used as a bed covering? _____
10. All weather gear
11. Good strong shoes
12. Special supplies: glasses, hearing aids, mobility aids
13. Baby supplies: food, clothing
14. Pet supplies: food, dog leash, and small cage

Answers: (3) Can opener (5) First aid kit (7) Torch - needs to be waterproof (9) Blanket - a sleeping bag could also be used

