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

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 (0800 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

The rain keeps tumbling down...

what to do, what to do?

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: 1._a can opener_ 2. _first aid kit_ 3. _a can opener_ 4. _a can opener_ 5. _a first aid kit_ 6. _a can opener_ 7. _a can opener_ 8. _a can opener_ 9. _a can opener_ 10. _a can opener_ 11. _a can opener_ 12. _a can opener_ 13. _a can opener_ 14. _a can opener_

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?

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