



# Flood Preparedness Guide

Flooding can happen any time of the year, but the risk of flooding is higher in the spring due to rising temperatures, melting snowpack, and spring rains. The Drinking Water Program encourages all water systems to be prepared for a flooding event.

The US Environmental Protection Agency's *Incident Action Checklist - Flooding* is a tool that can help your water system prepare, respond, and recover from a flood event. A partially pre-filled guide is available on the Drinking Water Program website: <http://bit.ly/dwpfloodchecklist>



Springtime flooding in Fort Kent, ME. (May 2008) Photo courtesy of Bangor Daily News.

The following resources can assist your water system during a flooding event:

## Drinking Water Program

If your public water system is impacted by a flood, please notify your public water system inspector as soon as possible. Your inspector can help determine if your water system needs to:

- Stop using your source until flood waters recede;
- Issue a drinking water order; and/or
- Take additional water samples.

Be sure to add your public water system inspector's phone number on page 2 of the *Incident Action Checklist - Flooding*.

For any after-hour drinking water emergency, please call the Drinking Water Program's emergency phone number: 207-557-4214.

## County Emergency Management Agencies

If your water system experiences flooding that goes beyond your capabilities, you can reach out to your County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) for assistance. They can help you find resources to get your water system back up and running. If you don't already know your County EMA's phone number, visit the Maine Emergency Management Agency's website: <http://bit.ly/mecountyema>. Add your County EMA's phone number to page 2 of the *Incident Action Checklist - Flooding*.



## **Maine Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MEWARN)**

Is your water system a member of MEWARN? MEWARN can assist your water system during a flooding event. It is a statewide network of utilities helping utilities prepare, respond, and recover.

Through MEWARN, utilities support each other by:

- Helping prepare for natural or man-made emergencies;
- Organizing response based on established guidelines; and
- Sharing personnel and equipment statewide.



There is no cost or commitment to join MEWARN, and assistance is voluntary. Visit [www.mewarn.org](http://www.mewarn.org) or call 207-737-4092 for more information.

## **Maine In-State Commercial Drinking Water Labs**

If you think your water system might experience flooding, contact your laboratory for extra sample bottles to have on hand. Remember that all water samples must be delivered to a certified laboratory within the hold time requirements. A list of all accredited laboratories in Maine is on the Drinking Water Program's website: <http://bit.ly/dwplabs>. Don't forget to add your laboratory's phone number to page 2 of the *Incident Action Checklist - Flooding*.

## **Private Well Owners**

If your water system is contacted by a private well owner asking about flooding, you can refer them to the Drinking Water Program's Private Well Coordinator, Haig Brochu. Haig can be reached via phone (207-592-3190) or email ([haig.brochu@maine.gov](mailto:haig.brochu@maine.gov)).