

PRIMER ON FLOODING FOR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS & PUBLIC CENTERS (MALLS, SUPERMARKETS, HOTELS, CINEMAS, ETC.):

This primer on flooding for commercial centers was formulated as a result of the unprecedented flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone “Ondoy” (September 29, 2009) which inundated vast areas of Metro Manila and adjacent provinces, particularly the province of Bulacan.

The programs and activities mentioned in this primer are general and may or may not apply entirely to the establishment concern. However, most of the items mentioned herewith were taken from various sources, mainly those who were affected during the aforementioned event.

Things to DO and NOT to DO – Commercial Establishment Flooding:

1. Determine location of the establishment with regards to a river in the area or whether it is situated within a flood-prone area.
2. Develop a flood hazard map of the area, showing possible flood depths within the area, possible flood flows, possible escape routes and evacuation areas. (Map should be displayed conspicuously within the establishment if possible)
3. Exit and escape routes within the establishment should be clearly posted and identified within an establishment.
4. In the event of flooding: when floodwaters are inevitable and can no longer be prevented (relatively fast and strong flood flows) open establishment doors, windows and other exits. This will allow floodwaters to move freely through the establishment. Preventing the flow will be more dangerous and hazardous to establishment patrons.



5. Appliances and electronic equipment should be placed at a relatively higher ground if possible.
6. Shut-off electricity at once when floodwaters are steadily rising.
7. Secure important documents in a relatively safer area.
8. Liquids and powders such as chemicals, acids, gasoline, etc. should be stowed away to higher ground to avoid contaminating and mixing with the floodwaters.
9. Install identifiable markers (such as color-coded wall lines) that will more or less measure depth of floodwaters inside an establishment. A flood marker kept within view of the establishment (say in the parking lot) and have a basis for pre alert level, alert level and alarming level (say 6", 1 foot and 1.5 feet).
10. Put signs where there are manholes or open pit inside or outside (parking lot) the area; better put control fences around them.
11. Stock some small supplies (food, water and first aid kit) at strategic locations within the establishment.
12. Possibility of having rubber boats, ropes, life jackets, life savers, etc.

Things to DO and NOT to DO – Establishment Patrons:

1. When in an establishment, do not stay inside a closed room while floodwaters are rising.
2. Never go through a steady swift flow of water (a 6 inches to 1 foot deep of floodwaters can be very dangerous, it can topple a person down); also establishment floor can be very slipper when wet, extra care should be exercised when wading in floodwaters.
3. Never stay in your car when floodwaters are rising. Leave vehicle and secure yourself onto a higher place. Never climb your car (on the roof) whenever floodwaters are gradually to rapidly rising.
4. Floodwaters - you can not see what is underwater, never thread or wade in an area that you are not familiar with or no signs to follow.
5. When wading never carry sharp objects, heavy materials, etc..
6. When floodwaters are already rising outside, it is better to get out of the area and moved to a higher place, never wait until such time that you're no longer unable to leave.
7. Be aware always of what's happening around you - news on weather disturbance, location, areas to be affected; be aware of a thunderstorm – it can cause sudden increase of floodwaters.

After a flood inside an establishment:

1. Do not switch electricity at once after a flood inside the building. Check for cables, wires, socket, electrical equipment submerged in flood.
2. If a car or electrical equipment had been underwater, never start or operate it at once. Have it checked first.
3. Clean drainage pipes and canals as soon as floodwaters have subsided.

Additional Notes:

- Flash floods are very dangerous, can occur immediately without proper warning.
 - Establishment can also do their share in mitigating and preventing hydrometeorological hazards by installing a rain gauge and flood markers within their area of concern.
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This primer was produced by:

Bulacan-PDMO 

and the

Pampanga River Flood Forecasting & Warning Center (PRFFWC) 

For additional info please visit:

Bulacan-PDMO at Provincial Capitol, Malolos City, Bulacan

Tel.: 044 791-1053, 044 662-4367, 044 791-0566

E-mail: pdmobulacan566@yahoo.com

Website: www.bulacan.gov.ph/pdcc

and

PRFFWC at DOST-Reg 3 compound, Bgy. Maimpis, SFDO, Pampanga

Tel: 045 455-1701

E-mail: prffwc_ffb@yahoo.com

Website: www.prffwc.webs.com

Related Links: www.bulacanshine.webs.com & www.prffwc.webs.com

