

# CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R)

## Emergency Checklist

at [www.calamityjaneexpress.net](http://www.calamityjaneexpress.net)

### Standard Messages

## Floods 1/2

### Protect Yourself

- Determine your risk.
- Prepare members of your household.
- Consider flood insurance.

### Avert the Dangers of Flood and Flash Flood

- Listen for and respond to watches and warnings.
- If advised to evacuate or if you think you are in danger, leave immediately.
- Prepare your home if you have time.

### **If you are at risk from floods, you should:**

- Find out the elevation above flood stage of your home, outbuildings, and pastures or corrals.
- Find out if local streams or rivers flood easily.
- Talk with members of your household about the possibility of floods and flash floods and what to do to stay safe if one occurs.
- Find out about the flood evacuation routes in your area and develop a flood evacuation plan for your household.
- Find out if you are located in a floodplain
- Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen to local stations on a portable, battery powered radio or television for updated emergency information.
- If you live in a frequently flooded area, stockpile emergency building materials.

### **Even when there are no signs of a flood, be alert to conditions that can cause floods:**

- Heavy rain for several hours, or steady rain for several days, can saturate the ground and cause a flood.
- Distant thunder indicates a distant thunderstorm that could send runoff your way.
- Other distant events, such as a dam break or the sudden unclogging of an ice jam, can cause flash floods.

### Watch, Warning

A **Flood WATCH** means a flood is possible in your area.

A **Flood WARNING** means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

A **Flash Flood WATCH** means flash flooding is possible in your area.

A **Flash Flood WARNING** means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon.

### Protect Your Property

- Build with flooding in mind.
- Protect important papers and equipment.

### Sand Bags

If flooding is expected, consider using sand bags to keep water away from your home.

### **If you are at risk from floods, you should:**

- Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- Raise your furnace, water heater, and electric panel to higher floors or the attic if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- Install check valves in plumbing to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers such as levees, berms, and flood walls to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage through cracks.
- Consult with a construction professional for further information about these and other damage-reduction measures.
- Contact your local emergency management office for more information on mitigation options to further reduce potential flood damage.
- Ensure that any outbuildings, pastures, or corrals are protected in the same way as your home.

### Before a Flood

- Use NOAA Weather Radio or listen continuously to a local radio or television station.
- Be ready to evacuate immediately.
- Follow authorities' instructions.
- Save lives, not belongings.

### **If a flood or flash flood watch is issued for your area, you should:**

- Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen continuously to a local station on a portable, battery-powered radio or television.
- Be ready to act quickly.
- Be alert to signs of flooding, and, if you live in a flood-prone area, be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Follow the instructions and advice of local authorities.

### **If a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, you should:**

- Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen continuously to a local station on a portable, battery-powered radio or television.
- Be alert to signs of flooding.
- Bring your companion animals indoors and maintain direct control of them.
- If you live in a flood-prone area or think you are at risk, evacuate immediately.
- If advised by authorities to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Follow the instructions and advice of local authorities.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes.
- Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads.
- If you evacuate, take your animals with you.

### **If your home is in a flood-prone area:**

- Fill plastic bottles with clean water for drinking.
- Fill bathtubs and sinks with water for flushing the toilet or washing the floor or clothing.
- Bring outdoor belongings, such as patio furniture, indoors.
- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Keep your previously assembled Disaster Supplies Kit near.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.