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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FLOODING: KNOW YOUR RISKS
Plan ahead to prepare for safety

- Find out if your home is at risk for floods and learn how a flood could affect you and your family.
- Learn about your community's emergency plans and evacuation routes
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.
- Post emergency phone numbers by every phone.
- Buy a fire extinguisher and make sure your family knows where it is kept and how to use it.
- Inform local authorities about any special needs such as the elderly, disabled or bedridden people in your home.
- Identify potential home hazards and know how to secure or protect them before flood strikes.
- Talk to your insurance provider about your policy and decide if you need additional coverage. Most home-owner's insurance does not cover flood damage.

MAKE A PLAN

- Take the time to update telephone numbers, buy emergency supplies and review your emergency plan with your family. Your family may not be together when a flood strikes so it is important to plan in advance.
- Discuss and decide how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in different situations. You may want an out of town/state contact as local phone lines may be non-functioning or jammed during an emergency. If you or the children have cell phones make sure that number is programmed into the contact list.
- Emergency supplies, both in home and evacuation kit – go to www.ready.gov for samples and tailor to your family's needs. You can also download a booklet at www.sarpycasshealthdepartment.org.

YOUR PETS

- Create a plan for your pets, keep in mind what is best for you is usually what is best for your pets.
- Prepare a pet emergency supply kit and develop a pet care buddy system to ensure your pet is safe and taken care of during a flood.
- Plan in advance where you will go if you evacuate, as pets (other than service animals) are usually not allowed in public shelters.
- Ask friends and family outside the flood area if they can shelter your pet.
- Make sure ahead of time that all your pet's vaccinations are up to date. Put copies in your pet emergency kit available at www.ready.gov.
- Develop a buddy system with neighbors or friends to ensure your pet is evacuated if you are not home and available to do it yourself. Make sure they know your pet, and the location of your pet emergency kit.

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