FLOOD AND WATER DAMAGE LOSS CONTROL
CHECKLIST

Church Buildings & Other Structures

1. Clear out all debris from gutters and downspouts. Check for cracks and make certain the gutters are flush against the roof.

2. Check areas in the building walls where telephone lines, cables and other wires come into the building. Add some caulking to prevent water from penetrating the walls.

3. Call a roofing company to inspect and repair leak points before the rains start. A roofer can check flashing and identify trouble spots. Ask the roofer to use your hose to make sure the flashing is directing the water off the roof and into the gutters properly. Store plastic sheeting in case emergency repairs are needed during a storm.

4. Look for peeling paint on the exterior of the buildings and apply a fresh coat of paint. Cracks in paint can allow water to soak into wood, causing dry rot, mold and even a place for termites to enter.

5. Check all windows. Look to make sure the caulking has not cracked or shrunk from the high temperatures we’ve experienced. Window panes that are loose will allow water to enter.

6. Check the church grounds to make certain water flows away from buildings. If there is not enough time to make permanent corrections, consider using sand bags to direct water flow.

7. Maintain an emergency generator in the event there is a power outage.
8. If any buildings have below grade areas like a basement, install a sump pump. If you already have a sump pump, call a plumber out to service it.

9. Make sure you have an inventory of all church-owned property, preferably with photos stored in a Cloud or on a thumb drive that is kept at another location. Consider scanning important documents as well, such as property deeds and tax information.

10. When the rains begin, turn off your automatic lawn sprinklers to save money and prevent saturation.

11. Hire a certified arborist to check the trees on your property. Because of the drought we've experienced, many trees have less water in them and lower moisture make the branches lighter and weaker. Winds can easily break the branches which could fall onto your structures causing damage. Have your trees trimmed as needed.

12. Check and re-enforce fencing. Outdoor furniture and equipment that could be moved by winds should be stored.

**Does your church or pre-school have a bus, van or church owned automobile?**

1. Buy and install new windshield wipers now.

2. Take your vehicles to a local tire store. Most stores will check your the tread of your tires and make sure they are properly inflated, for free.

3. Get the brakes inspected and replace worn pads.

4. Make sure the lights and turn signals are properly functioning.

More deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other thunderstorm or hurricane related hazard. Many of these casualties are a result of careless or unsuspecting motorists who attempt to navigate flooded roads. Please educate your drivers and ask them to follow these safety rules:

- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Stay away from flood-prone areas, including dips, low spots, valleys, ditches, washes, etc.
Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream.

Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. NEVER drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads.

If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Water only two feet deep can float away most automobiles.

Do not park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly when threatening conditions exist.

Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Thank you for your best efforts in protecting God's people and property.