



# What Is Electricity Resilience During Spring Flooding?

Climate change is bringing more intense rainstorms and rising water levels to Nova Scotia. That means flooding – including sudden flash floods – is becoming more frequent and more dangerous, especially in low-lying inland areas.

Electricity resilience means getting ready now so we can keep the lights on during storms. This is part of climate change adaptation.

## Why Flood Preparedness Keeps Us Safe

As our climate shifts, we're seeing:

- Heavier, more intense spring rainfalls
- More flash flooding from short, powerful storms
- Increased overland flooding in urban and rural areas
- Greater risk to homes, basements, and electrical system

**Electricity and water don't mix** – so flood prep is a key step toward keeping your power safe and reliable.

## What Is Flash Flooding?

Flash floods are sudden, fast-moving floods that can occur within minutes or hours of heavy rain – especially during intense storms or when the ground is already saturated.

Unlike slower river flooding, flash floods:

- Strike quickly, often with little or no warning
- Can happen even in places that don't usually flood
- Are more likely in urban areas where pavement prevents water from soaking into the ground

### Why they're hard to predict:

Flash floods form fast, which makes advanced warning difficult. Climate change is increasing the intensity of rainfall, making these events more common and more dangerous.

#### ADAPTATION TIP

*Treat flash floods like a sprint – being prepared ahead of time can help protect your home and your safety.*



## What You Can Do To Prepare For Spring Flooding

These tips help reduce flood damage, keep power systems safe, and protect your health and home.

### Before a Flood:

- Know if your area is prone to flooding or flash floods – check local flood map
- Make a “go bag” with essentials, medication, documents, and pet supplies
- Review insurance policies – check flood coverage and document your belongings
- If renovating, consider raising your electrical panel above ground level
- Install a sump pump and backwater valve to protect from water backup
- Use nature-based solutions like rain gardens to absorb water in your yard
- Move electronics and valuables out of basements or low spaces
- Clear gutters and nearby storm drains so water can drain properly
- Sign up for local weather alerts and revisit your emergency plan

#### ADAPTATION TIP

*Even small home upgrades – like sealing basement windows – can reduce flood damage and protect your power.*

### During a Flood:

- Monitor emergency alerts (e.g., WeatherCan app) and be ready to move fast
- Never touch electrical systems if water is present
- Stay away from rivers, streams, and fast-moving floodwaters Follow evacuation orders without delay

#### ADAPTATION TIP

*Knowing what to do ahead of time helps you act fast and stay safe.*

Flash floods can happen with little warning. Being ready ahead of time is key.

### After a Flood:

- Only return home when it’s declared safe by authorities
- Have a licensed electrician inspect your home’s power system
- Don’t use appliances or electronics that were wet
- Test private well water before drinking
- Wear gloves and masks when cleaning to protect against mould and contamination

#### ADAPTATION TIP

*After a flood, focus on safety first - then use what you’ve learned to prepare better next time.*

## Building Flood Resilience One Step at a Time

Flooding in Nova Scotia is getting worse. But being prepared means less damage, fewer risks, and quicker recovery. Adaptation starts with you, right at home.

Remember, being water-smart is power-smart.

Flash floods can turn roads into rivers – don’t risk it.

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