



# What to know and what to do **RIGHT AWAY**

## What do you need to know?

Knowing if the area where you live, work or stay is exposed to flood risk helps to prevent and better deal with emergency situations. Remember:

- it is important to know what are the typical floods in your territory
- if floods have affected your territory in the past, they are likely to occur also in the future
- in some cases it is difficult to determine precisely when and where floods will occur and you may not be alerted in time
- water can rise suddenly, even of one or two meters in a few minutes
- some places get flooded before others. At home, the most dangerous areas are cellars, basements and ground floors
- outdoors, underpasses, areas close to banks and bridges, roads with steep slopes and in general all the lower areas are most at risk
- the force of water can also damage buildings and infrastructure (bridges, embankments, dikes) and the most vulnerable ones could fail or suddenly collapse.

## What do you need to do?

You too, with simple actions, can help reduce the risk of flooding.

- Respect the environment and if you see bulky waste abandoned, clogged drains, water courses etc. partially obstructed, report it to the Municipality
- Ask your Municipality about the emergency plan to find out which areas may get flooded, escape routes and safe areas of your city: if there is not, ask for it to be prepared, in order to know how to behave
- Pinpoint the tools that the Municipality and the Region uses to send out the alert and stay constantly informed
- Make sure that your school or workplace receives the alert and has an emergency plan for flood risk
- If people of your family need special assistance, verify that the local emergency plan provides for specific measures
- Avoid storing valuables in the cellar or in the basement
- Make sure that in case of need the highest floors of your building are easily accessible
- Keep copies of important documents, a first aid kit, a flashlight, a battery-operated radio at home and make sure everyone knows where they are
- Learn which is the correct behaviour in case of alert, during a flood and right after it



## LEARNING TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF A FLOOD IS EVERYBODY'S TASK

Share your knowledge with your family, your schoolmates and your colleagues: each of us should contribute to the dissemination of information on flood risk.



