

Danger of Burrow Flooding is High!

Please check your tortoise burrows often. The extended heavy rain is causing saturated soil and the result is flooding. If you can't see in the burrow with a strong flashlight, slide a long pole in and see if it comes out dry. If it's wet, you will probably want to dig up the burrow.

If you find your tortoise in water and seemingly dead, don't give up. Tortoises can live for some time under water. Refer to Information Sheet #25, Treatment of Drowning in Tortoises

<http://www.tortoisegroup.org/infosheets/infosheet25.php> . You may well be able to save your tortoise with the outlined procedures. In such a case, follow up with a trip to the vet.

Several people have reported that their tortoise has come out all muddy and they have brought it inside. Here's a link to Information Sheet #15, An Alternative Location for Brumation (Hibernation) When an Outdoor Burrow Is Not Available

<http://www.tortoisegroup.org/infosheets/infosheet15.php> . You can fix up a good alternate spot for your tortoise to spend the winter, wait for the burrow to dry out, and fix it up for the summer.

One family reported a completely dry burrow yesterday and today is was flooded. They could see in the burrow, see water in the bottom, but they could not see the tortoise. Naturally fearing the worst, they called Tortoise Group. We recommended digging up the burrow right away, as the tortoise could still be alive. Sick with worry, these retired folks got out their shovels and slickers and set to work with gusto. After removing lots of soil, they were able to slide back the top to reveal the bottom of the burrow. Lots of water but no tortoise! She must have noticed the commotion, because when they finally were able to completely remove the top, Maxine had crawled half way out of the burrow. Oh Maxine! What a wonderful Christmas present you are!