



Flood Safety & Products

Flood Safety Rules

- * During periods of heavy rain, stay away from streambeds, drainage ditches, and culverts.
- * Never drive your car into water of unknown depths. Most flash flood deaths occur when people drive their vehicles into flood waters. Never go around barricades.
- * Water runs off streets and parking lots very rapidly causing natural and man-made drainage systems to overflow with rushing flood waters. These flood waters carry rocks, trees, trash, and other debris that can be deadly to someone in their path.
- * Move to high ground should flooding threaten your area. Heavy rain should be a signal to alert you to possible flooding danger. If you live or work in a flood-prone area, near streams, or drainage ditches, remain alert during periods of heavy rain.
- * Stay out of flooded areas. The water may still be rising and is usually swift. A rapidly flowing stream or ditch can sweep you off your feet or even sweep your car downstream. Children are especially vulnerable and should not be allowed to play or walk in flowing water.
- * Be especially cautious at night, when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- * If your vehicle stalls, abandon it and immediately seek higher ground. Flood waters may rise very quickly and could cover the vehicle or sweep it away.

Water is a very powerful force and should never be underestimated!



Types of Flood Watches and Warnings Issued by the National Weather Service

Watches

FLASH FLOOD WATCHES are issued when conditions are favorable for flash flooding (sudden short-term flooding that lasts less than 6 hours).

FLOOD WATCHES are issued when conditions are favorable for long-duration (longer than 6 hours) flooding. This includes river flooding.

Warnings

FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS are issued when flooding occurs or is imminent within 6 hours of the event.

FLOOD WARNINGS are issued when flooding occurs or is imminent and is expected to occur more than 6 hours.

RIVER FLOOD WARNINGS are issued when flooding is occurring or expected to occur near streams and rivers.