
FLASH FLOOD

...Rapid flooding of low-lying areas caused by heavy rain. A warning may be issued when a flash flood is imminent; take necessary precautions immediately.

The most common type of flooding event is overland flooding and typically occurs when waterways such as rivers or streams overflow their banks and cause flooding in surrounding areas. Be aware that flash flooding can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam failure, or a sudden release of water. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Listen for local warnings and information.

IF INDOORS:

- Turn off utilities. Disconnect electrical devices. Do not touch electrical equipment if standing in water.

IF OUTDOORS:

- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without typical warnings.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

IF IN AN AUTOMOBILE:

- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely as the vehicle can be swept away quickly.
 - If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, get out immediately and climb to higher ground.
 - Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
 - Stay on firm ground. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
 - If barricades have been placed, they are there for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way.
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