Flood Facts

Flooding occurs when a body of water overflows its banks; usually, floods are caused by heavy rains, a dam breaking, or snow melting too quickly.

Flooding are a frequent natural disaster and can happen almost anyplace.

A flash flood occurs when a river, stream, or lake rapidly overflows, often without warning.

Floods can destroy or damage drainage systems, allowing raw sewage and toxic materials, such as pesticides and gasoline, to contaminate the water.

Flooding can weaken buildings, bridges, roads, and cause trees and power lines to fall.

What is a Flood Watch?

A flood watch is issued to alert you and your family that conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

What is a Flash Flood Watch?

A flash flood watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flash flooding. It does not mean that flash flooding will occur, but it is possible. If you live in the affected area, you should be ready to take action.

Things to do when a Flood or Flash Flood Watch is issued

- Listen to your local news reports and weather updates.
- Go over your emergency plan and find your emergency kit and evacuation box.
- Be ready to evacuate if you live in an area likely to flood.

What to look for during a Flood Watch

- Heavy rain, severe thunderstorms, or heavy snowfall

What is a Flood Warning?

A flood warning is issued when flooding is about to happen or is occurring.

What is a Flash Flood Warning?

A flash flood warning is issued when flash flooding is imminent or occurring.

Things to do when a Flood Warning is issued

- Get to a safe place immediately and follow your family’s emergency plan.
- Listen to your local radio for updates.

What not to do during a flood

- Do not eat food that has come into contact with flood waters.
- Never walk, swim, or play in or near flood water.
- Do not go near animals or snakes.