

Avert the Dangers of Flood and Flash Flood

CORE ACTION MESSAGES

- Listen for and respond to watches and warnings.
- If advised to evacuate or if you think you are in danger, leave immediately.
- Prepare your home if you have time.

Even when there are no signs of a flood, be alert to conditions that can cause floods:

- Heavy rain for several hours, or steady rain for several days, can saturate the ground and cause a flood.
- Distant thunder indicates a distant thunderstorm that could send runoff your way. Runoff can produce a deadly flash flood that appears with no warning, particularly in certain types of terrain, for example, in an arroyo or streambed.
- Other distant events, such as a dam break or the sudden unclogging of an ice jam, can cause flash floods.

Park a vehicle or set up camp away from streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions. Floodwater can rise quickly and carry you, your vehicle, or your belongings away.

Listen for watches and warnings on NOAA Weather Radio or a local radio or television station.

Watch, Warning

A Flood **WATCH** means a flood is possible in your area.

A Flood **WARNING** means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

A Flash Flood **WATCH** means flash flooding is possible in your area.

A Flash Flood **WARNING** means a flash flood is occurring or will occur very soon.

Watches and warnings are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) and broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio and on local radio and television stations.

A watch is the first official alert that a flash flood or flood may occur in a specific area. People in a watch area should review their flood plans (Family Disaster Plan, Disaster Supplies Kit, evacuation routes), keep informed, and be ready to act if a warning is issued or if flooding occurs.

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