

# Flood

Flooding is a coast-to-coast threat to some part of the United States and its territories nearly every day of the year. Flooding can occur because of heavy rain (flash flood), sustained rains over an extended period, and from other issues such as ice/debris jams and water releases. In some cases, flooding may only impact a couple of buildings or a single road, other times entire communities can be inundated with water or cut off from typical community resources such as grocery stores and hospitals. Like tornadoes and other severe weather, the National Weather Service uses standard terms such as advisory, watch, and warning to inform the public of what action they should be prepared to take. Learn more about the different flood preparedness terms here <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-watch-warning>

Keep these important action steps in mind should you be caught in a flood situation in your home or while enjoying the outdoors.

- **Stay Informed:** Listen to radio and television, including NOAA Weather Radio if possible, check the Internet and social media for information and updates.
- **Get to Higher Ground:** If you live in a flood prone area or are camping in a low lying area, get to higher ground immediately.
- **Obey Evacuation Orders:** If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Lock your home when you leave. If you have time, disconnect utilities and appliances.
- **Practice Electrical Safety:** Don't go into a basement, or any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged. If you see sparks or hear buzzing, crackling, snapping or popping noises--get out! Stay out of water that may have electricity in it!
- **Avoid Flood Waters:** Don't walk through flood waters. It only takes 6 inches of moving water to knock you off your feet. If you are trapped by moving water, move to the highest possible point and call 911 if possible. Do NOT drive into flooded roadways or around a barricade; Turn Around, Don't Drown! Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide hazards such as sharp objects, washed out road surfaces, electrical wires, chemicals, etc. A vehicle caught in swiftly moving water can be swept away in seconds, 12 inches of water can float a car or small SUV, 18 inches of water can carry away large vehicles.

Turnaround PSA <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI6mIlHKrVY>



A flood damaged roadway in the southwestern U.S. (photo credit: NPS)