

SAFETY ALERT

ZERO HARM

Flash Flood Safety Tips

More people lose their LIVES in floods than in any other weather-related event. 80% of flood deaths occur in vehicles, and most happen when drivers make a single, fatal mistake - trying to navigate through flood waters.

- Watch for the following signs:
 - Unusually hard rain over several hours
 - Steady substantial rain over several days
 - Rains in conjunction with a spring thaw
 - A monsoon or other tropical system affecting your area
 - A Weather report
 - Water rising rapidly in streams and rivers
- In hilly terrain, flash floods can strike with little or no advance warning. Distant rain may be channeled into gullies and ravines, turning a quiet stream into a rampaging torrent in minutes
- **DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED AREAS!** Even if it looks shallow enough to cross. The large majority of deaths due to flash flooding occur with people driving through flooded areas. Water only a foot deep can displace a 1500 lb. vehicle! 24" of water can easily carry most automobiles! Roads concealed by water may not be intact.
- If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away. Remember it's better to be wet than dead!
- Be especially cautious at night. It's harder to recognize water danger then.
- Don't try to outrace a flood on foot. If you see or hear it coming, move to higher ground immediately.
- Be familiar with the land features where you live, work, and play. It may be in a low area, near a drainage ditch or small stream, or below a dam. Be prepared!
- Stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest statements, watches and warnings concerning heavy rain and flash flooding in your area, report it to the National Weather Service.
- The National Weather Service will issue a Flash Flood Watch when heavy rains may result in flash flooding in a specific area. In this case you should be alert and prepare for the possibility of a flood emergency which will require immediate action. A Flash Flood Warning will be issued when flash flooding is occurring or is imminent in a specified area. If your locale is placed under a warning, you should move to safe ground immediately.