



# Flood Facts

## 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.
- Floods are a frequent natural disaster and can happen almost anywhere.
- 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.
- Floods 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.