

# Flood & Flash Flooding Preparedness

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the U.S. normally.

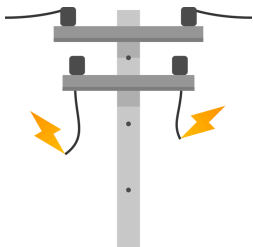
## FLOODING



Results from rain, snow, storm surges, and overflows of water systems.



Develops slowly or quickly. Flash Floods can come with no warning.



Tornadoes may occur with a thunderstorm.



Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death.

## FLOOD AND FLASH FLOOD SAFETY



Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.



Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.



Evacuate if told to do so.



Move to higher ground or a higher floor.



Sign up for alerts and warnings, listen to local news, and get a weather radio for duplicate notifications.

## Before

Know your area's type of flood risk. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at [msc.fema.gov/portal](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) for more information.

Sign up for Alert Iowa, enable WEA alerts on cellphones, and get a weather radio. Multiple ways to receive alerts is best.

If flash flooding is a risk in your location monitor signs such as heavy rain.

Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.

Obtain flood insurance. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Protect your property. declutter drains and gutters. Check or install a sump pump. Move valued items to higher levels.

## During

If told to evacuate, do so immediately. NEVER drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning of flooding, go to the safe location that you have identified.

## After

Keep listening to local authorities for updates.

Avoid driving, except in emergencies.

Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed powerlines can also electrically charge the water.

Use a generator or other gasoline powered machinery only outdoors and away from windows.

Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.