



# FLOODS

The Weather Channel

kids!

Floods are the most common of all natural disasters and happen in every state and territory in the United States. They are very powerful and dangerous. Flooding happens during heavy rains, when rivers overflow, when ocean waves come onshore, when snow melts too fast or levees break. When they happen quickly they are called flash floods. Floods can be a few inches of water or cover a house or even a building up past the rooftop. Floods can be quite scary if you aren't prepared.

## What to do



### Before the Flood

Bring in any outdoor items that might cause damage or be lost if flooded. Do not walk into flood waters to retrieve items.

If you are not at home, go to high ground and wait.

In case the water supply becomes contaminated, thoroughly clean bathtubs with bleach and fill with water for drinking

Place all valuables and records in waterproof containers like baggies and store on the highest floor of your home, or in the safest place you can find.

### During the Flood

If on foot, go directly to higher ground - do not attempt to walk or drive through flood waters.

Stay away from flood waters, storm drains and sewers - the currents can be overpowering.

### After the flood:

Watch for snakes and other animals forced into your home by flood waters.

There may be flammable chemicals or debris after the flood so to prevent accidental fires, use flashlights, not candles, to see if power is on or off after a flood.

Look for fire hazards.

### Stay inside:

If pets must be walked outside make sure they are leashed. Stay close to the house, return indoors as quickly as possible.

## 4 important key alerts



**Flood Watch:** High flow or overflow of water from a flooding of streams or rivers is possible in the given time period.

**Flood Warning:** Flash flooding conditions are actually occurring or are imminent in the warning area.

**Flash Flood Watch:** Flash flooding is possible in or close to they watch area. Flash Flood Watches can be put into effect for as long as 12 hours, while heavy rains move into and across the area.

**Flash Flood Warning:** Flash flooding is actually occurring or imminent in the warning area. A warning can be issued as a result of torrential rains, a dam failure or snow thaw.

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