

## FLOOD AWARENESS

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States and are never alike. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water that carries rocks, mud, and other debris, and can sweep away most things in its path. Overland flooding occurs outside a defined river or stream, such as when a levee is breached, but still can be destructive. Flooding can also occur when a dam or levee breaks, producing effects similar to flash floods.

Flash floods are the number ONE thunderstorm related killer with nearly 140 fatalities each year. Most flash flood deaths occur at night and when people become trapped in automobiles.

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds, or low-lying ground that appears harmless in dry weather can flood. Every state is at risk from this hazard.

Familiarize yourself with the different **WATCHES** and **WARNINGS** to help identify flood hazards.

### **Flood Watch**

Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

### **Flash Flood Watch**

Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

### **Flood Warning**

Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

### **Flash Flood Warning**

A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

