

FLOOD

A flood can develop slowly, over a period of several days, or it can develop within minutes, which is the case with Flash Floods.

In general, you should know the difference between a **watch** and a **warning**. A flash flood **WATCH** means that current or developing conditions are favorable for flash flooding in and close to the watch area, but the occurrence is neither certain nor imminent. A flash flood **WARNING** means that flash flooding is in progress, imminent or highly likely.

In the event of a flash flood watch or warning, you should:

Keep your automobile gas tank filled; if electric power is cut off, gas stations may not be able to operate pumps for several days.

Have an emergency kit with enough water and non-perishable food for 3 days.

Keep a portable radio, flashlight, extra batteries, manual can-opener and other essential supplies on hand.

Know your elevation above flood level.

Store drinking water in various containers and clean bathtubs. Water service may be interrupted.

Move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwater.

DO NOT attempt to drive over a flooded road - you could be trapped or stranded. The depth of the water is not always obvious, or the road could be washed away. If you can't see it, you can't be sure it's there.

Be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

Check evacuation routes from your home and your workplace.

Be aware of creeks and other low-lying areas that are prone to sudden flooding.

For power outages or downed wires, call your utility company.