

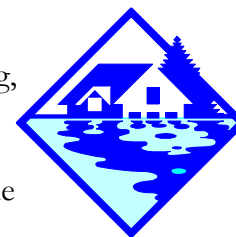
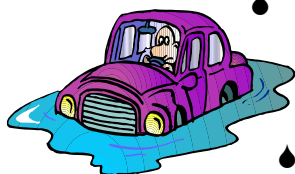
Severe Weather Tips: *Flash Floods*



Flash flood waters can move at incredible speeds, rolling boulders, tearing out trees, destroying buildings, and creating new channels. Floods can threaten both life and property. Quick action can help save lives.

Safety Tips:

- ◆ When a flash flood warning is issued for your area or if you realize flooding is occurring, act quickly to save yourself. You may only have seconds.
- ◆ During heavy rain, get out of dips, low spots, and canyons that are subject to flooding.
- ◆ Avoid areas that are already flooded. Do not try to cross a flowing stream on foot if the water is above your knees.
- ◆ Do not allow children to play around high water, storm drains, viaducts or drainage ditches.
- ◆ When driving, know the depth of standing water before crossing a dip or low spot. The road may not be intact underneath, and flood waters can carry away vehicles quickly.
- ◆ If your vehicle stalls when crossing water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
- ◆ Be especially cautious of water-covered roadways at night. Darkness will make it harder to tell the depth of the water.
- ◆ Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- ◆ During any flood emergency, stay tuned to your NOAA weather radio, commercial radio, or television. Information from the national weather service and disaster and emergency services may save your life.



Understanding Watches & Warnings

Flood Watch – A watch indicates flooding is possible in the watch area. Watches are usually issued 12 to 36 hours before a possible flooding event and should prompt you to pay attention for changing conditions.

Flash Flood Watch – Flash floods happen quickly, often within just a few minutes. A flash flood watch means that flash flooding is possible. Stay tuned to a NOAA Weather radio, commercial radio, or television for additional information.

Flood Warning – A warning indicates that flooding is already occurring or will occur soon. If you are in a flood-prone area, a warning may be your signal to evacuate. In some cases, warnings include evacuation notices.

Flash Flood Warning – When a warning is issued, flash flood is occurring. Seek higher ground and be alert to the conditions.



References:

Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages. Produced by the National Disaster Education Coalition, Washington, D.C.

Thunderstorms . . . Tornadoes . . . Lightning: Nature's Most Violent Storms. Produced by the National Weather Service, Washington, D.C.

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For more information, contact your county Extension office or visit the Kentucky Extension Disaster Education Network Web site, Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, at www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu/EDEN.

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