



Understanding Flooding

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West Gulf River Forecast Center



Urban / Small Stream Advisory

WHAT IS IT?

Flooding of small streams, streets and low-lying areas.

WHAT TO DO?

Stay away from areas that are prone to flooding and stay clear of rapidly moving water

Flood Watch

WHAT IS IT?

Flooding is possible – typically within a 6 to 48 hours before rain is expected to reach the area.

WHAT TO DO?

Stay tuned to local river forecasts; prepare for areas near rivers to spread towards nearby roads and buildings

Flash Flood Watch

WHAT IS IT?

Flash flooding is possible – typically 6 to 48 hours before rain is expected to reach the area.

WHAT TO DO?

Have a way to receive local warnings, expect hazardous travel conditions and have alternate routes available

Flood Warning

WHAT IS IT?

Flooding impacts are occurring or imminent.

WHAT TO DO?

Stay **alert** for inundated roadways and follow all local signage! Additional impacts include homes and structures could become flooded and need to be evacuated

Flash Flood Warning

WHAT IS IT?

Flash flooding impacts are occurring or imminent.

WHAT TO DO?

Conditions will **rapidly** become hazardous! Do not cross flooded roadways or approach inundated areas as water may still be rising

Flash Flood Emergency

WHAT IS IT?

Flash flood situation that presents a clear threat to human life due to extremely dangerous flooding conditions

WHAT TO DO?

Immediately reach higher ground by any means possible



How is a flash flood different from a standard flood?

Flash floods are characterized by rapid rise of water on the order of a few minutes to 6 hours that can occur anywhere. A flood watch or warning pertains to larger streams and rivers that take much longer to respond (3 hours to weeks) but move much larger amounts of water through sensitive areas

Flooding Can Happen Anywhere. Are you "Flood Prepared"?



Be Flood Aware. Turn Around. Don't Drown!