

# FLOOD SAFETY

Flooding is the most damaging, costly, and deadly severe weather-related phenomena, costing the United States over \$5 billion in property damage annually. On average, flooding is responsible for more deaths each year than lightning or tornadoes. How are you going to be ready?

Know what to listen for.

A Flash Flood or Flood Watch means conditions are favorable for sudden short-term (less than 6 hours) flooding or long duration (longer than 6 hours) flooding, respectively. A Flash Flood or Flood Warning means flooding conditions are imminent and you should take action immediately. A River Flood Warning is issued when river, stream or lake levels are expected to rise above bankfull.



Courtesy of Michael Amberson  
Etowah County, Jan 7, 2009

Move to higher ground away from low-lying areas, storm drains, and stream beds. Do not return to flooded areas.

Flood waters carry debris that could cause serious injury or death. Water could be moving very quickly just below the surface. Only 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock an adult over. Children should not be allowed to play or walk near flowing water.

Never drive across flooded roadways or around barricades.

Flood waters can rise very quickly, covering your vehicle or sweeping it downstream. Just two feet of water can move most vehicles, including trucks and large SUVs. Road surfaces could be washed away or large debris might be located below the surface. If your vehicle is caught in rising water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.



Montgomery County  
May 7, 2009

Be especially cautious at night, when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.



Courtesy of Matthew Romei  
Jefferson County, Sept 19, 2009