



Flood Safety Awareness Week – March 18-22, 2013

Today's topic: **Types of floods.**

A flood is defined as any high flow, overflow or inundation by water which causes or threatens damage. This usually occurs with prolonged rainfall over several days, intense rainfall over a short period of time or when an ice or debris jam causes a river or stream to overflow and flood the surrounding area. Other factors that can cause or worsen flooding are melting snow in the winter and early spring, thunderstorms in the spring or summer and tropical cyclones in the summer and fall.

Flash Flooding

A flash flood is defined as a rapid and extreme flow of high water into a normally dry area, or a rapid water level rise in a stream or creek above a predetermined flood level. Ongoing flooding can intensify to flash flooding in cases where intense rainfall results in a rapid surge of rising flood waters. Commonly it occurs within six hours of a heavy rain event. However, flash floods can also occur within hours or even minutes if a dam or levee fails following a sudden release of water held by an ice or debris jam or rapid ponding of water caused by torrential rainfall. Flash floods can even occur in areas away from the causative event. Flash floods can catch people off guard and unprepared. You may only have a few minutes warning that these deadly floods are coming. If you live in areas prone to flash floods plan now to protect your family and property.

River flooding

With river flooding, the NWS uses different categories to convey the expected flood severity. These categories are: minor flooding, moderate flooding and major flooding. Each category has a definition based on property damage and public threat and are closely coordinated by the local NWS office, the servicing River Forecast Center or RFC and other emergency and public officials. Here are the official definitions of the NWS flood categories:

Minor flooding: usually has minimal or no property damage, but there could be some level of public threat or inconvenience. Many times you will hear this referred to as nuisance flooding.

Moderate flooding generally has some inundation of structures and roads near streams and rivers. Some evacuations of people and transfer of property to higher elevations can become necessary with moderate flooding.

Major flooding occurs with extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuations of people and transfer of property to higher elevations may become necessary.

Knowing the different types of floods, how to prepare for them and knowing the actions to take during and afterwards can save you time, money and even your life. Prepare now and be a force of nature!

Join us tomorrow for information on **Turn Around Don't Drown.**

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