



Douglas County Emergency Services...dedicated to protecting and educating the citizens and visitors of Douglas County!

As a part of Emergency Services commitment to protecting our citizens, we are constantly monitoring weather conditions.

If it becomes necessary to issue an evacuation as the result of flash flooding, Douglas County Emergency Services will activate the Emergency Preparedness Network and you may be notified of the evacuation over the phone.

However, the safest and most dependable way to protect yourself from flash flooding events is to be aware of weather forecast and educate yourself and family on what to do in an emergency situation.

Disclaimer

All information within the brochure has been provided by the National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FLOOD

Safety



Douglas County Emergency Services
4000 Justice Way
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

Phone: 303.660.7589
Fax: 303.814.8790

Flash Flooding...the underrated killer!



Flooding is the #1 cause of weather related deaths in the U.S.

In Colorado river floods occur most often in association with the snow melt in May and June. The flash flood season extends from May to September...with July and August as the primary months for flash flooding. Flash flooding can occur anywhere in the state.

A flash flood refers to a dangerous sudden rise in water along a stream... river...wash...or over a normally dry land area. Flash floods result from heavy rainfall...river ice jams...snowmelt...and dam or levee failures. They can even be the result of heavy rains over a burned area. Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or hours...and can move at surprisingly high speeds...striking with little or no warning. They can erode an entire mountainside...roll boulders the size of trucks...tear out trees...destroy buildings...wash out roads and bridges and cause loss of lives. Rain weakened soils can also result in mud slides capable of closing inter-states.

To stay informed about a flash flood listen for:

A Flash Flood or Flood Watch: This tells you that flash flooding or flooding is possible within the watch area. You should remain alert and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

A Flash Flood Warning: This tells you that flash flooding has been reported or is imminent. When a flash flood warning is issued for your area...act quickly to save yourself. If advised to evacuate...**DO SO IMMEDIATELY!** Go to higher ground or climb to safety. Move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.

An Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory: This tells you that flooding of small streams...streets and low lying areas...such as railroad underpasses and urban storm drains...is occurring...but rainfall is not expected to produce a flash flood situation.

You may not always have a warning that these deadly sudden floods are coming, so you need to know some basic flash flood safety rules...

Flash Flood Safety Rules

DO NOT camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes...particularly during threatening conditions.

If you are near a river be aware of water levels and be prepared to take action to move to higher ground if river levels rise.

DO NOT enter areas that are already flooded.

DO NOT try to cross a flowing stream on foot when the water is at or above your knees.

If walking or fishing along a river...be aware that erosion from swift running water can cause river banks to collapse.

NEVER let your children play around high water...storm drains...viaducts or arroyos.

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

Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are auto related! While driving your automobile look out for flooding at highway dips...bridges and low areas. Two feet of water will carry away most automobiles. Never attempt to drive over a flooded road. The road bed may be washed out under the water and you could be stranded or trapped. If the vehicle stalls...leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away.

During A Flood

If Indoors:

- Turn on battery-operated radio or television to get the latest emergency information.
- Get your preassembled emergency supplies.
- If told to leave, do so immediately

If Outdoors:

- Climb to high ground and stay there.
- Avoid walking through any floodwaters. If it is moving swiftly, even water 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet.

If In A Car:

- If you come to a flooded area, turn around and go another way.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Many deaths resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

During flash flood season...and year around...stay abreast of the latest weather information!