



**just in case arizona**

## **Floods**

### **A Few Facts:**

- Flooding is the most common natural hazard.
- Flooding happens during heavy rains, when rivers overflow, when ocean waves come onshore, when snow melts too fast or when dams or levees break.
- Flash floods happen fast, sometimes in just a few minutes and without any signs of rain.
- Flash floods often carry rocks, mud, and other waste and can sweep away most things in its path.
- Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, especially if you live in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam.
- Even small streams, creeks, dry streambeds and low-lying ground that looks safe in dry weather can flood.
- All floods are not alike. Some floods develop slowly, sometimes over a period of days.
- Flooding may be only a few inches of water or it may cover a house to the rooftop.
- Every state is at risk for floods.

### **Vocabulary:**

- **Flood Watch:** flooding is possible.
- **Flash Flood Watch:** flash flooding is possible; be prepared to move to higher ground.
- **Flood Warning:** flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- **Flash Flood Warning:** a flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

### **References:**

- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
- **Merriam-Webster Word Central**

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