

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

March 2019

Keep Safe and Dry

Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 18-23 which is just in time to remind us how to stay safe during spring run-off and summer storm seasons. Flooding can occur along the Boise River, local creeks, and in the foothills gulches. Frozen ground, clogged storm drains, and construction can create flooding in areas far from traditional flooding sources. The National Weather Service (NWS) keeps the public informed about flooding and uses specific terms to do so. Be familiar with flood terminology, take action when necessary and stay safe. Here are some flood terms and their meanings from the NWS.

Flood Terms

Flood Advisory: Be Aware! - A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and, if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

Flood Watch: Be Prepared! - A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a flooding to occur. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it's possible. Once a watch is issued, it is important to monitor local radio (including NOAA Weather radios), television, internet news sites and social media for information and updates. Sign up to receive weather warnings directly through text and email at the Idaho State Alert and Warning (ISAWS) site: <http://isaws.org/>

Flood Warning: Take Action! - A Flood Warning is issued when the hazardous weather event is imminent. Prepare to evacuate if necessary.

Flash Flood Warning: Take Action! - A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

Turn Around, Don't Drown!

Every year people make bad choices and drive around street barricades that say "ROAD FLOODED." Don't be one of them. Remember the NWS motto "Turn Around, Don't Drown!" Water may be deeper than it appears and can hold hidden dangers. A vehicle entering swiftly moving water can be swept away quickly. Twelve inches of moving water can float a car and 18 inches or more of moving water can carry away large vehicles.



Boise River Flooding FAQs

As temperatures start warming up this month, spring run-off is right around the corner. Many people have questions about what to expect as Boise River flow rates increase. We comprised a list of frequently asked flooding questions that is available on our [website](#). You can also visit our flood page for additional Boise River system information: adacounty.id.gov/emergencymanagement/how-to-prepare-resources/flood/

