

Flood Types

FLASH- heavy rains can cause water to rapidly build up and begin to rush through normally dry areas. it really can happen in a "flash" with little to know warning and happens anywhere heavy enough rain falls in too short a time- even on top of hills. Water can rise to many feet deep and is rushing at speeds fast enough to pick up or destroy anything in its path. It can rapidly wash away roads, bridges and homes and undermine the ground causing deep unexpected holes where solid ground was seconds ago.



RIVER- Sometimes due to rapid snow melt or long periods of heavy rain rivers can overflow their normal banks. River flooding normally occurs slowly as rain and melt water flow from smaller streams and seep through the ground into a river, we may have hours to days ahead of time when we know the water levels will continue to build towards a flood. In some cases we may be able to build temporary flood controls like sandbag walls, close roads that may become unsafe in the flooding and even temporarily evacuate people in the path of the water. Rivers in a flood s tage are exceptionally dangerous, their currents are tremendously strong and unpredictable, they are often choked with large debris and mud and polluted with chemicals and sewage they have absorbed in areas they have washed out.



AREAL/INLAND- Aerial flooding falls somewhere in between flash flooding and river flooding. It happens over several hours after a period of heavy rain, and makes existing water bodies like lakes and streams rise over their banks. It also fills low areas like ditches and low spots causing ponding of water than can be several feet deep covering roads and flowing into homes and businesses.

