

FLOODING

A Costly Catastrophe

Every year, many lives are lost or put at risk from flooding. In every state and territory, floods destroy property costing billions of dollars annually. Are you prepared?

Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 16–20. See how well you understand your possible risks with the following myths and facts.

Myth

Flash floods mainly occur in the eastern United States.

Fact

Flash floods have and can occur in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Myth

Flash floods occur only along flowing streams.

Fact

Flash floods can occur in dry creek beds and urban areas where no streams are present.

Myth

Flash floods occur mainly in the late afternoon and evening.

Fact

Many flash floods occur at night, too.

Myth

Larger vehicles, such as SUVs and pickups, are safe to drive through flood waters.

Fact

Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickups.

Myth

Homeowners insurance policies cover flooding.

Fact

Unfortunately, many homeowners do not find out until it is too late that their policies do not cover flooding. Contact your insurance company or agent about flood insurance.

To learn more about floods, visit NOAA's Flood Safety Web site at www.floodsafety.noaa.gov.

