

## Stay Informed

NOAA Weather Radio is the best way to receive warnings from the National Weather Service. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts National Weather Service warning, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. NOAA Weather Radios can be purchased at most hardware and other “big-box” stores.

The NOAA Weather radio is programmed to tailor to your regional interests within 40 miles of the transmitter. They can be programmed for your hometown or other locations where you may spend time away from home.

The NOAA Weather Radio is portable, so they can be taken on road trips, boating trips, camping trips and field trips. They can also stay at home, work or as a sports complex to alert the public to dangerous weather in the area.

Story County Emergency Management has step by step instructions available on-line as [www.storycountyiowa.gov/ema](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/ema) or they will assist you with programming your radio for the Story County and surrounding area.



## Flooding Related NWS Products

**Flash Flood Watch**– Issued to indicate current or developing conditions that are favorable for flash flooding in and close to the watch area, but the occurrence is neither certain or imminent.

**Flash Flood Warning**– Issued to inform the public, emergency management, and other cooperating agencies that flash flooding is in progress, imminent, or highly likely.

**Flood Watch**– issued to inform the public and cooperating agencies that current and developing conditions are such that there is a threat of flooding, but the occurrence is neither certain nor imminent

**Flood Warning**– Issued to inform the public of flooding along larger streams in which there is a serious threat to life or property. A flood warning will usually contain river level forecasts.

## The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)

AHPS is a web-based suite of accurate and information rich forecast products. They display the magnitude and uncertainty of occurrence of floods or droughts, from hours to days and months in advance. These products will enable government agencies, private institutions, and individuals to make more informed decisions about the dangers posed by floods and droughts.

Emergency Management officials at local and state levels use these forecasts to fight floods, evacuate residents, and to talk other measures to mitigate the impact of flooding. These products can be used by a wide range of people, such as barge operators, power companies, recreational users, farmers, households, businesses, and environmentalists.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/ahps>.



# Flood Preparedness & Safety



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[www.storycountyiowa.gov/ema](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/ema)

## What is a Flash Flood?

A Flash Flood is a rapid rise of water along a stream or low-lying urban area and generally occurs within 6 hours of the rain event. Flash floods can be produced when slow moving or multiple thunderstorms occur over the same area.

Flash flooding and other flood events, over the long term, kill more people in the United States than other types of severe weather. Flash flood damage and most deaths tend to occur in areas immediately adjacent to a stream due to a combination of heavy rain, dam or levee failure, rapid snowmelt, and ice jams.

Since many flash floods occur along small streams, drainage ditches or other low lying areas, you can determine your risk by knowing your proximity to these areas.

Densely populated areas have a high risk for flash flooding. The construction of buildings, highways, driveways, and parking lots increases runoff by reducing the amount of rain absorbed by the ground. During periods of heavy rainfall, storm drains may become overwhelmed and flood roads and buildings.

Flooding is a longer term event and may last a week or more. Flooding can be caused by rain falling several miles upstream and then moving downstream rapidly.

### Links:

National Weather Service: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/>

National Flood Insurance Program: <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

Be Ready Iowa: <http://www.bereadyiowa.org/>

## Turn Around...Don't Drown

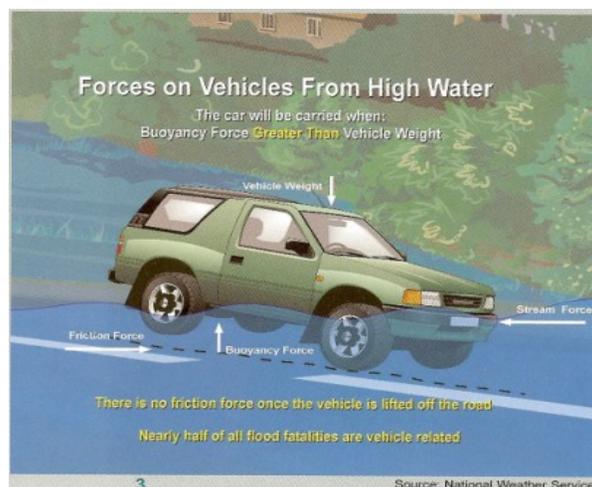
Almost half of all flood deaths occur in vehicles. Contrary to popular belief, many people don't realize two feet of water on a bridge or highway can float most vehicles. If the water is moving rapidly, the car, truck or SUV can be swept off the bridge and into the waterway.

Many flash floods occur at night when flooded roads are difficult to see. Water can erode the road bed creating unsafe driving conditions. Underpasses can fill rapidly with water, while the adjacent roadway remains clear. Driving into a flooded underpass can quickly put you in 5-6 feet of water.



If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and move to higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle sweeping it away. Vehicles can be swept away be as little as 2 feet of water.

**When you approach a flooded road, TURN AROUND AND GO ANOTHER WAY!! Not all flooded roads will be barricaded for your protection.**



## Flood Planning & Preparedness

- Be aware of the flood hazards around your community.
- Have a flood & evacuation plan ***before*** the flooding comes. If you are advised to evacuate...***evacuate!!***
- Discuss flood plans with your family. Everyone in your family should know where to go if they have to leave.
- Have a **three day supply** of non-perishable food and water. It could take up to three days for help to come.
- Monitor your local National Weather Service for updates to the flooding situation. <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/>
- **NEVER** try to walk, swim, drive or play in flood water. You may not be able to see how fast the water is moving or see holes & submerged debris.
- Children should **NEVER** play around high water, storm drains, viaducts or arroyos. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.

### Family Preparedness Kit

- Non-perishable food
- Hygiene Items
- Bottled Water
- Cell phone
- Clothing
- Personal Documents
- Flashlight/Batteries
- Child & Infant supplies (if applicable)
- Weather Radio (battery operated)
- Money
- First Aid Kit
- Supplies for pets