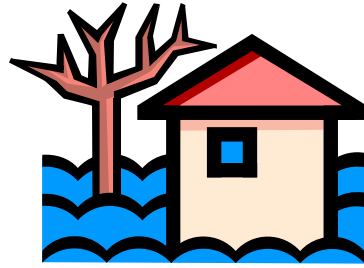


Flood Safety in Oklahoma

Flash floods are the number one cause for weather-related deaths in the United States an average of 100 people a year lose their lives in floods nationwide, with flood damage in backspace and damage averaging more than \$2 billion.



In Oklahoma more than \$97 million in flood insurance payments were made from 1978 to 2002. Numerous Oklahomans have been killed by floods since 1995.

The following tips will help keep you safe during a flood:

- **Stay informed.** Turn on a battery-operated radio or television to get the latest emergency information. Continue listening to radio for news about what to do where to go and places to avoid.
- **If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.** Evacuation is much safer before floodwaters become too deep for ordinary vehicles drive through. Follow recommended evacuation routes.
- **Avoid walking through flood water.** Water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet if it is moving swiftly.
- **Do not drive into a flooded street.** Cars can be swept away by 2 feet of moving water or there may be unseen damage to the road. If you come to a flooded area turn around and go another way. Most flood-related deaths are caused by people driving through water.
- **Watch out for fire hazards.** Be aware of broken or leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits, electrical appliances and flammable materials coming from upstream.

Flood Safety in Oklahoma

Plan Ahead for Floods

Find out if you live in a flood-prone area. Ask whether your property is above or below the flood stage water level and learn about the history of flooding for your region.

Plan and practice an evacuation route. Individuals living in flash flood areas should have several alternate routes. Have disaster supplies on hand for easy access.

Learn about the National Flood Insurance Program. Ask your insurance agent about flood insurance. Homeowners' policies do not cover food damage.

After the Flood

Protect yourself and your family from stress, fatigue and health hazards that follow a flood.

- **Dry out your home.** Floodwaters damage materials, leaf mud, silt and unknown contaminants, and promote the growth of mold and mildew.
- **Restore the utilities.** Cleanup will be much easier if you have heat, electricity, sanitary water and sewage disposal.
- **Clean up.** The walls, floors, closets, shelves, contents and any other flooded parts of your home should be thoroughly washed and disinfected.
- **Rebuild and flood proof.** Take time to rebuild correctly and make improvements that will protect your building from damage by the next flood.
- **Prepare for the next flood.** Protect yourself from the next flood with flood insurance, a flooded response plan in community flood protection programs.

For more information visit the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association web site at www.okflood.org.