

# Flood Safety Awareness Week

## Flood Preparedness and Safety

The National Weather Service in the states of Vermont and New York have declared the week of March 14 through March 20 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. The National Weather Service in Burlington, VT will feature a different educational topic each day during the week. Today's topic: Flood Preparedness and Safety.

Nearly every day, flooding happens somewhere in the United States or its territories. Flooding causes more damage in the United States than any other weather related event. On average, floods cause eight billion dollars in damages and ninety five fatalities annually. Being prepared and knowing how to stay safe will help you and your loved ones survive a flood.

### **Prepare-**

Before and during the flood, awareness and preparation are key. Know your flood risk and elevation above flood stage. Do your local streams or rivers flood easily? Where does your water come from? If so, be prepared to move to a place of safety. Know your evacuation routes. Find out which flooding hazards impact your state at [weather.gov/safety/flood-map](http://weather.gov/safety/flood-map). Flood plain information is available from FEMA at <https://msc.fema.gov>, or contact your town's floodplain manager.

Assemble a disaster supplies kit containing a first aid kit, canned food and can opener, bottled water, rubber boots and gloves, a NOAA Weather Radio and battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries. Go to [www.weather.gov/safety/flood](http://www.weather.gov/safety/flood) for more information.

### **Be Aware-**

Find the latest forecasts and hazardous weather conditions at [www.weather.gov/btv](http://www.weather.gov/btv). Forecasters in NWS offices work around the clock to ensure watches, warnings and advisories are issued to alert the public to hazardous conditions. Flood Watches are issued when flooding is possible, and Flood or Flash Flood Warnings when flooding is imminent or already occurring. The same information is available on your mobile device at <http://www.weather.gov/wrn/mobile-phone>. Some smart phones are able to receive Flash Flood Warning alerts via the Wireless Emergency Alerts system. Visit <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea> for more information!

NOAA All Hazards Radio is one of the best ways to receive warnings from the National Weather Service. This nationwide network of radio stations broadcasts continuous weather, river and other emergency information direct from NWS offices and emergency officials. For more information, visit [www.weather.gov/nwr/](http://www.weather.gov/nwr/).

Our partners in local television, radio, and print media are crucial links in notifying and warning the public of flood threats and are an excellent source for the latest weather and flood information.

### **Safety Rules-**

The risk from flooding can be reduced by following one basic rule: Stay away from flood waters!

Most flood deaths occur in automobiles. Turn around and go another way if you encounter a flooded roadway. The road bed may not be intact under flood waters, and it only takes a few inches of moving water to sweep a vehicle away. If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Be especially cautious at night when flood waters are more difficult to see.

Stay away from areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, creek beds, canyons and ravines. Avoid already flooded areas, and streams and rivers with high velocity flows. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.

Children should never play around high water, fast running streams, storm drains or culverts. Rocks and stream banks can be slippery, and the rapidly flowing floodwaters can quickly carry a child or adult away.

Flood Safety Awareness Week continues on Tuesday with Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD).