

Flash Flood Impact-Based Warnings



The National Weather Service issues Flash Flood Warnings (FFW) when a rapid, damaging, and life-threatening rise of water into a normally dry area is happening or imminent, letting the public know that quick action is needed to stay safe.

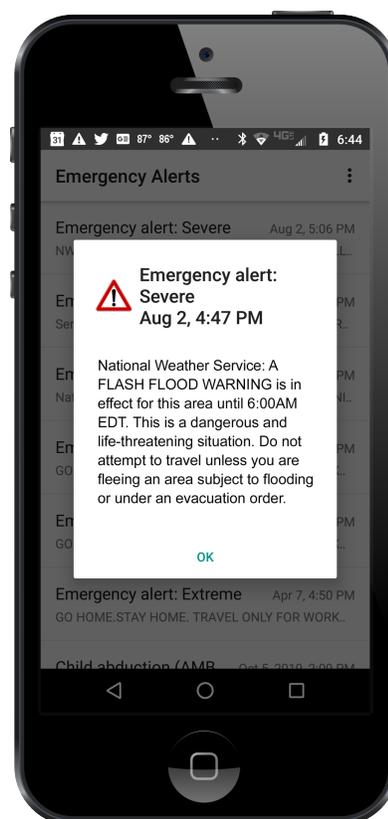
These warnings are **impact-based**, detailing the hazard, source, and impact information. These provide additional information to media and emergency managers, facilitating improved public response and decision making.

Wireless Emergency Alerts based on Damage Threat

These impact-based warnings include “tags” that categorize the damage threat, source information, and causative event.

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) messages are limited to only those FFWs with the damage threat tags of “Considerable” or “Catastrophic.” For more information on WEAs, please visit weather.gov/wrn/wea.

A complete list of tags that can appear on Flash Flood Warnings and Statements is detailed on the following page.





Flash Flood Tags Explained

Damage Threat Tag

Flash Flood Damage Threat Tag	WEA?	Explanation
Base (no tag)	NO	Used most of the time, when flash flood impact damage is possible
Considerable	YES	Used rarely, when there are indications flash flooding capable of unusual severity of impact is imminent or ongoing and urgent action is needed to protect lives and property
Catastrophic	YES	Used exceedingly rarely, when a flash flood threat to life and catastrophic damage is occurring or is imminent, and floodwaters have risen or will rise to levels rarely if ever seen

Source Information Tag

Flash Flood Source Information Tag	Explanation
FLASH FLOOD...RADAR INDICATED	Radar evidence and conditions in the warned area suggest flash flooding is occurring or imminent
FLASH FLOOD...OBSERVED	Flash flood impacts confirmed by trained spotters, law enforcement, media, other credible human observers, etc.

Causative Event Tag

Flash Flood Causative Event Tag	Explanation
EXPECTED RAINFALL RATE...	Used to identify rainfall rate leading to potential or observed flash flooding, including rain falling on a burn scar or in an urban area
[DAM OR LEVEE] FAILURE... [IMMINENT OR OCCURRING]	Used to provide additional information about the status of the failing dam or levee, whether it is “imminent” or “occurring”

