

## Why Should I be Concerned About Flooding?

This preparedness guide explains floods and related hazards and suggests life-saving actions YOU can take. With this information YOU can recognize a flood potential, develop a plan, and be ready when threatening weather approaches. Remember...your safety is up to YOU!

In the long term, floods kill more people in the United States than other forms of severe weather. In recent years, only heat has surpassed flood fatalities. Floods can roll boulders the size of cars, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and pose a significant threat to human lives.

Additional flash flood/flood related safety information can be obtained at:

**The American Red Cross:**  
<http://www.redcross.org/>

**The U.S. Geological Survey:**  
<http://www.usgs.gov/>

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency:**  
<http://www.fema.gov/>

"Flooding never happens here. Tom was trying to get home. He drives on the road near the stream every day. We knew it had been raining a lot, but it had been so dry, we were actually happy about the rain. Tom saw some water on the road, but thought it wasn't that deep. And, after all, he was in his truck, high up off the ground. But then his truck started to float, and before he knew it, his truck was washed downstream with him in it. Fortunately, his truck got stuck on a rock or something, and someone saw him and threw him a line. Tom got out okay. But we really learned from this, not to drive in floods."

- *Testimony of Marilyn & Tom (last name requested to be withheld), interviewed after Tropical Storm Allison struck Texas in June, 2001 by the American Red Cross*

## Major Flash Flood Disasters in United States history

**May 31, 1889**

A dam above Johnstown, PA failed sending a huge flood wave through the city, killing 2,200 residents

**February 26, 1972**

The Buffalo Creek Dam, located in southern West Virginia collapsed sending a black wave of water through one coal mining town after another killing more than one hundred people and leaving 4,000 people homeless

**June 5, 1976**

The Teton Dam located in southeast Idaho failed killing 14 people and causing \$1 billion dollars in damages

WATER  
LEVEL  
(FEET)

15

14

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