

Flash flood

ACTION CHECKLIST

Move to higher ground immediately if a flash-flood warning affects you or water is rising. Never cross flowing water on foot or in a vehicle. Leave low areas, canyons and basements without waiting to see how high the water gets.

[] Get uphill

Move away from streams, low roads and drainage channels.

[] Turn around

Do not drive across a flooded road; the roadbed may be missing.

[] If trapped

Call emergency services and move to a higher open level without becoming trapped in a closed attic.

[] Follow routes

Use current evacuation and road-closure instructions.

WATCH FOR

A small-looking current can sweep away people and vehicles.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Move uphill before the route fills; leave belongings behind. If trapped above floodwater, remain in a safe elevated position and signal your location. Do not attempt to swim a current or enter water to rescue property.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/flash-flood/>

Flash flood · official guidance