



Know your Risk

What

Flooding is a temporary overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry. Flooding may happen with only a few inches of water or several feet. There are many possible causes of floods including heavy rain or snowmelt, waterway overflow from being blocked with debris or ice, or overflow of ditches dams, or waste water systems. Flooding can occur slowly over many days or happen very quickly with little or no warning, called flash floods.

Where

Flooding can happen almost anywhere in the County but is most common in low-lying area near a river, stream, ditch or downstream from a dam.

When

Flooding can occur during every season, but in Carbon County we are most at risk in the spring during snow melt or river ice jams and during heavy summer rains.

National Weather Service Flood Alerts

Flood Watch = "Be Aware." Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.

Flood Warning = "Take Action!" Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.

Safety Tips

Before Flood

- Know your flood risk
- Consider buying flood insurance
- [Build an emergency kit](#)
- Make a flood [emergency plan](#) for the relevant type/s of local flood risk
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning
- Move livestock and equipment to higher ground
- Keep a NOAA Weather radio, a battery powered portable radio, emergency cooking equipment and flashlights in working order

- Install check valves in building sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home
- Keep materials like sandbags, plastic sheeting, plywood and lumber handy for emergency water proofing

During Flood

- If there have been evacuation orders - do so immediately
- Continue to monitor NOAA Weather Radio or other radio stations (KEMC - FM, 91.7 MHz is the Emergency Alerting System (EAS) station) or visit the [CarbonAlert](#) Website for emergency information
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters – “Turn Around, Don’t Drown!”
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away
- Do not drive over bridges that are over fast-moving floodwaters. Floodwaters can scour foundation material from around the footings and make the bridge unstable
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water

After Flood

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways
- Boil drinking water before using. Wells should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt, call the County Sanitarian
- Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines
- Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service
- Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities
- Keep tuned to radio or Television for advice and instructions
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes

Shareables

- [Flood Safety Social Media Toolkit](#) (toolkit)
- [National Weather Service Weather Ready Nation Spring Safety Outreach Materials](#) (link)
- [American Red Cross](#) (link)
- [The National Insurance Program](#) (link)
- [When the Cloud Forms](#) (video)
- [How to Prepare for a Flood](#) (PDF)
- [Flood Creative Materials](#) (PDF)
- [National Creative Resources](#) (PDF)