Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

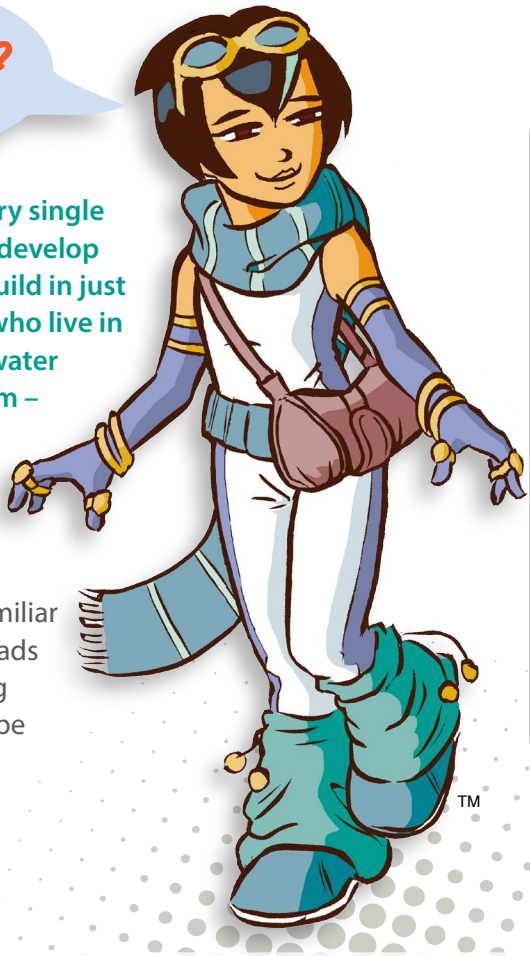
FEMA

Floods

Flooding happens during heavy rains, when rivers overflow, when ocean waves come onshore, when snow melts too fast, or when dams or levees break. This is the most common natural-weather event. Flooding may be only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Floods that happen very quickly are called flash floods.

Am I at risk?

Floods can occur in every single U.S. state. Some floods develop slowly, and some can build in just a few minutes. People who live in low-lying areas – near water or behind a levee or dam – are at even greater risk.



Did you know?

Flooding can change familiar places, like walkways, roads and fields. Avoid walking through water. It might be deeper than you think!

FACT CHECK

1. Which of the following does NOT cause a flood?
   - **a.** Tropical storms and hurricanes
   - **b.** Spring thaw and melting snow
   - **c.** New construction
   - **d.** None – they can all cause floods
2. **True or False?** 1 foot of water is enough to make most cars float.
3. **True or False?** 6 inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.

ANSWERS
(1) D.
(2) True!
(3) True. Stay away from moving water!

BE A HERO!™

For more facts and info on floods visit
http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/floods
http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/

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Be Prepared

BEFORE

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Tell an adult if you hear a flood warning on the TV or radio.

DURING

- Listen to authorities and safety officials.
- If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground.
- Help your family move important items to an upper floor.
- Do not walk through moving water. Even 6" of water can make you fall.

AFTER

- Stay away from flood water. It could be contaminated, meaning contain dangerous substances.
- Stay away from moving water. It can knock you off your feet.
- Stay out of the way of emergency workers so they can do their job easily.

WORDS TO KNOW

Flood Watch A message that flooding is possible and to listen to local radio or TV news and weather for more information. You may receive an alert on a cell phone.

Flood Warning A message that flooding will occur soon, if it hasn't already, and to move to higher ground or evacuate immediately

Flash Flood A flood that can happen within minutes or hours of heavy rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or city drains overflowing

Levee/Dam A manmade structure to contain or prevent water from moving past a certain point

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