

Flood Facts and Characteristics

- Floods are one of the leading causes of weather-related deaths in the United States.
- Flooding accounts for nearly a third of all weather related fatalities in Arizona.
- Flash floods are a particularly common and deadly type of flood in Arizona.
- A Flash flood is a rapid rise in water that occurs in a short period of time after heavy rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or even a debris jam or release on a river.
- Flash floods are characterized by high velocity flows of water and are often combined by mud, rock, and other debris.
- Flash floods occur most often during the summer monsoon, however, they can occur at any time of year.



Photo - NWS Flagstaff

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcasts National Weather Service official warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24hours a day, 7 days a week. NWR receivers are available for purchase at most electronics stores.



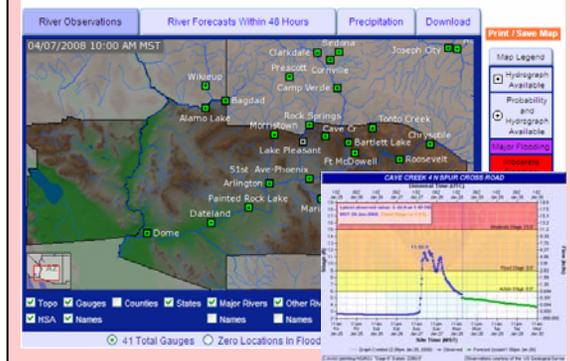
Flood Safety Tips

- **Never walk or drive across flowing streams or flood waters.** As little as 6 inches of flowing water can knock you off your feet. 18 to 24 inches of moving water will sweep most vehicles off the road. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- **Use extra caution at night.** About 75% of fatalities occur after dark, when it is more difficult to recognize the dangers of flooding.
- To escape flash flooding, **go to higher ground.**
- **Stay alert** to the dangers of flash flooding when hiking in canyons. Even if it is not raining where you are, flash flooding can develop from distant showers or thunderstorms.
- **Never camp in a dry wash.**
- **Change your plans if storms threaten.**
- **Consult with land management agencies on flash flood hazards in the area.**



Photo - David Bremson

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)



<http://www.weather.gov/oh/ahps/>

The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service is the National Weather Service's gateway for providing river and flood forecasts, along with other water resource information, to water managers, city officials, and the public. AHPS can help answer questions such as:

- How high will the river rise?
- When will the river crest?
- Where will the flooding occur?
- How long will the flood last?
- How long will the drought continue?



The **Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC)** provides continuous hydrometeorological data assimilation and river forecast preparation for Arizona and portions of surrounding states. CBRFC information and forecasts can be found at:

<http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/>

Arizona Flood Warning & Drought Monitoring

The **Arizona Flood Warning System (AFWS)** is a multi-agency web portal designed to provide ready access to all available data on Arizona's weather, watersheds, reservoirs, drought conditions and seismic activity. <http://www.afws.org/>

National Weather Service Flood-related Products

Hazardous Weather Outlooks

Issued to alert the public that hazardous weather, including flooding, may develop. This product provides information to those who need considerable lead time to prepare for an event.

Flood / Flash Flood Watch

Issued when the expectation of a flood event has increased, but its occurrence, location, and/or timing is still uncertain. Usually issued within 48 hours of the forecast flood event.

Flash Flood Warning

Issued when flash flooding is occurring or is imminent. Individuals in the warned area should take immediate precautions to protect life and property.

Flood Warning

Issued for longer term flooding of geographic areas or mainstem rivers that threatens property and lives.

Small Stream Flood Advisory

Issued for elevated river/stream flows, ponding of water in urban or other areas, and for flooding which is generally only an inconvenience (not life threatening) to those living in the affected area. Sometimes issued as an "Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory" in populated areas.

Flood Statement / Flash Flood Statement

Issued to provide follow-up information on Flood and Flash Flood Warnings.

A listing of watches, warnings, and advisories currently in effect for the state of Arizona is available on the internet at :

<http://www.weather.gov/alerts/az.html>



Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. NEVER drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. Turn Around - Don't Drown!!!

Sources for Weather and Water Information

**Arizona is served by four National
Weather Service Forecast Offices.**



1. <http://www.weather.gov/phoenix>
2. <http://www.weather.gov/tucson>
3. <http://www.weather.gov/flagstaff>
4. <http://www.weather.gov/lasvegas>

Drought Conditions

The Arizona State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee produces monthly drought status reports for the entire state. The latest report can be accessed at:

<http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/>



Arizona

Flash Flood and Water Resources

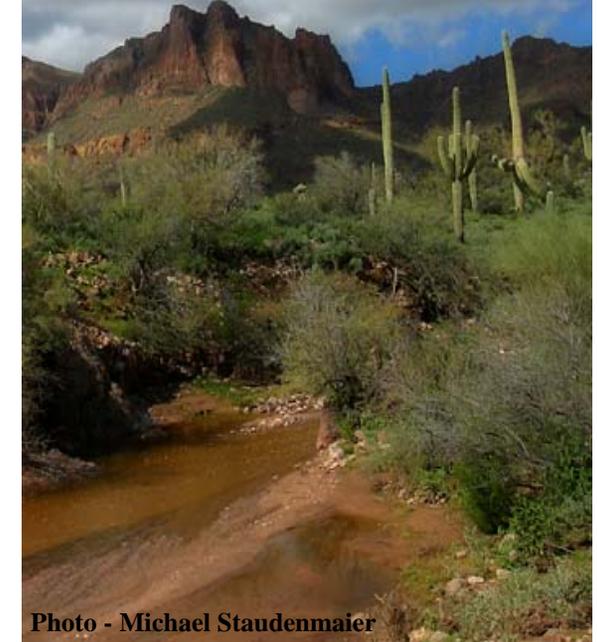


Photo - Michael Staudenmaier

Provided by NOAA's National Weather Service - Your official local source for accurate and timely weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy.

