

Information Zone

Follow these agencies on social media:

- Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
- Flood Control District of Maricopa County
- National Weather Service Phoenix
- Arizona Emergency Information Network



Maricopa County

Emergency Management

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2018

ARE YOU READY? FLOODING



Preparedness Starts with You!



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

FLOODING happens in the desert.

Three types of storms trigger flooding in Maricopa County: tropical storm remnants, winter rains, and summer monsoons.

LOCALIZED FLOODING is a result of excessive precipitation/storm runoff over a short period of time. In addition to heavy rain; poorly designed, maintained, altered, or blocked control measures often contribute to these localized floods.

FLASH FLOODS result from storm runoff from local or distant mountainous areas moving quickly through normally dry washes and riverbeds. These common types of floods are fast moving and often short lived.

"Stupid Motorist Law"

Section 28-910 of the Arizona Revised Statutes states any motorist who becomes stranded after driving around barricades to enter a flooded stretch of roadway may be charged for the cost of their rescue.

Watches & Warnings

Watches = Be Aware.

Warnings = Take Action!

Flash Flood Watch

Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground. Monitor your radio, television, or cell phone for watches and warnings.

Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory

Minor flooding is expected or underway in low lying and flood prone areas. While it may not be life threatening, extreme caution is advised, particularly for motorists.

Flash Flood Warning

A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

Before

Know Your Risk & Be Informed

- Flood risk is based on rainfall, topography, flood-control measures, river-flow, tidal-surge data, and changes due to new construction and development.
- Visit **fcd.maricopa.gov** to find out more about flooding and to see if you live in a floodplain. Also check for rainfall information, water-levels, and to sign up for weather alerts.
- Be aware of areas known to flood. Flash floods can occur without typical warnings such as rain clouds or heavy rain.

Prepare Yourself & Your Family

- Develop and practice a **Disaster Plan** with your family to prepare for what to do, where to go, and how to communicate during any disaster.
- Prepare to evacuate by creating a **Go Bag** for each individual and pet. Consider including one in your vehicle and one at work.
- Prepare to stay in your home for up to 3 days (without electricity or running water) by creating an **Emergency Kit**.
- Visit **ready.maricopa.gov** and **ein.az.gov** to learn more about how to prepare for disasters.

Prepare Your Home

- Consider flood insurance. Flood damage is not typically covered by homeowners' policies. Get coverage early - there is a waiting period before it takes effect.
- If you are in a flood-prone area, get sandbags and block your home **BEFORE** the threat of flooding is highest. Check with your local fire station or district.
- To protect items from flood damage, bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor.

Be Informed. Be Ready. Take Action.

Before & During Any Disaster or Large-Scale Emergency

- Monitor your television, portable radio, or cell phone for information and instructions.
- If you have been told to **EVACUATE** or **SHELTER** in your home, **DO SO IMMEDIATELY**. Secure your home. Remember your pets. Check on neighbors who may need special assistance. Follow all evacuation or shelter orders given by local authorities.
- Return home only when authorities say it's safe.

During

Take Action Indoors

- If there is a possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to a second story if possible.
- Bring pets indoors.

Take Action Outdoors

- If there is a possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground.
- **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!** Do not walk through moving or standing water. Six inches of moving water can sweep you off of your feet. You may not be able to determine how deep it is or the hazards within it (electric charge, contaminants, and debris).
- If you must walk through flooded areas stay on firm ground, use a stick when walking, and be aware of areas that may be damaged or weakened by flood waters.

Take Action in a Vehicle

- **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!** Do not drive through moving or standing water. A foot of water can carry away a car. You may not be able to determine how deep it is or the hazards within it.
- 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.

REPORT

Call 911 if the flooding is an immediate threat to anyone's life, health, or safety.

Go to **fcd.maricopa.gov** to report a flood.

After

Stay Safe, Healthy & Alert

- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Drive with caution. Anticipate traffic light outages and obstacles in the road. Report broken utility lines and damaged roadways/railways to appropriate authorities as soon as possible.
- Shut off electricity and gas.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Wear appropriate safety gear.
- If your home or property is damaged, take photos/videos of damage, list all damaged items, and contact your insurance agent to discuss claims.
- Monitor your radio or cell phone for information on assistance that may be provided by the state or federal government or other organizations