



Stay Safe During a Flood

Here's what you can do to stay safe during a flood:

- If flooding occurs, go to higher ground and avoid areas subject to flooding, such as stream or drainage channels or canyons.
- Do not attempt to walk across flowing streams or drive through flooded roadways.
- Watch TV or listen to a battery-operated radio for the latest storm information.
- Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if advised to do so. Don't touch electrical appliances that are wet or standing in water.
- If you've come in contact with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.

Stay Up-to-Date on Flooding and other Emergencies!

Have multiple sources of alerts available:

- TV, radio, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio.
- National Weather Service (NWS) Webpage: www.weather.gov/reno
- Social Media: Search for 'NWS Reno' on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube.
- Wireless Emergency Alerts are available on cell phones for Flash Flood Warnings.
- Smartphones have apps that can display weather and flood information.

Resources

- ⇒ State of Nevada Flood Awareness website: <http://www.NevadaFloods.org>
- ⇒ *Key Facts about Flood Readiness*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/readiness.asp/>
- ⇒ *Floods*, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), <http://www.ready.gov/floods/>
- ⇒ National Flood Insurance Program <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>
- ⇒ *Flood*, American Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/flood/>
- ⇒ National Weather Service Flood Safety Information: <http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>
- ⇒ National Weather Service Forecasts for Western Nevada: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/rev/>

Contact University of Nevada Cooperative Extension:

Washoe County/Reno: 775-784-4848

Douglas County: 775-782-9960

Carson City/Storey County: 775-887-2252

Elko County: 775-738-7291

Clark County/Las Vegas: 702-222-3130

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Nevada Floods! Be Prepared!

A 100-year flood does not occur only once every 100 years; it can occur at any time.

Hidden Valley in Reno, Nevada flooded January 2, 1997.

Photo by Marilyn Newton, Reno Gazette Journal.



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Nevada Floods!

In Nevada, we have both flash floods and river floods, even though we live in the Great Basin Desert. Flash floods occur in canyons and on alluvial fans, usually from summer thunderstorms. Valley bottom river floods usually occur in winter, after large “rain-on-snow storm events.”

Whether you live near the foot of a mountain range or on a broad valley floor, you should make preparations ahead of time for damaging flood events. The first and best line of defense is to purchase flood insurance.

Purchase Flood Insurance

- ⇒ Most standard homeowners insurance policies do not cover flood damage.
- ⇒ If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), a high-risk floodplain, and have a federally backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance.
- ⇒ To find out if you live in a SFHA, check out “Know your Risk” at www.nevadafloods.org or check with your insurance agent.
- ⇒ If you live in a SFHA, your home has a 26 percent chance of being damaged by a flood during the course of a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 9 percent risk of fire.

You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. All Nevada counties except Esmeralda participate in this program. Consider buying flood insurance if your property is near a SFHA, even if it’s not required.

Do More Than Insure!

After getting flood insurance, there are several things you can do to minimize losses in your home and ensure your family’s safety:

1. Safeguard your possessions.

Create a personal “flood file” containing information about all your possessions and keep it in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. This file should have:

- ⇒ A copy of your insurance policies with your agent’s contact information.
- ⇒ A room-by-room inventory of your possessions, including receipts, photos and videos.
- ⇒ Copies of all other critical documents, including finance records.

2. Prepare your house.

- ⇒ Clear debris from gutters and downspouts.
- ⇒ Anchor any fuel tanks.
- ⇒ Raise your electrical components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers and wiring) at least 12 inches above your home’s projected flood elevation.
- ⇒ Place the furnace, water heater, washer and dryer on cement blocks at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation.
- ⇒ Move furniture, valuables and important documents to a safe place, such as an upper floor or attic. Unplug electrical appliances if flooding appears imminent.

Did you know? According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), floods have caused a greater loss of life and property and have devastated more families and communities across the United States than all other natural hazards combined.

3. Develop a family emergency plan.

- ⇒ Create a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid, blankets, a radio and a flashlight. See: <http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit>.
- ⇒ Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 911.
- ⇒ Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Know safe routes from home, work and school that are on higher ground.
- ⇒ Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency family contact.
- ⇒ Have a plan to protect your pets.

