

When flooding is likely

When flash flooding is likely the best action to take is to leave low-lying homes and businesses (evacuate) well before flooding begins, but only if it is safe to do so.

Do not enter floodwater as there is a high risk you may be swept away. Consider alternative ways to evacuate if possible.

Do not start driving in affected areas during flash flooding. If you are already driving, avoid flooded roads and find the highest nearby place to stop. Flash flooding can cause cars to stall, fill with water or be swept away.

If you are trapped by rising floodwater, seek refuge inside a sturdy multi-storey building with access to upper levels, higher natural ground such as a hill or onto the roof of a sturdy building. Do not enter the roof cavity as you may become trapped.

Stay there and call '000' (triple zero) if it is a life-threatening situation.

Stay clear of possible flash flood areas when severe weather is forecast and reconsider non-essential travel. Schools and work places have emergency procedures for these situations to keep children and workers safe.

- ✓ Access local media for information, updates, warnings and advice
- ✓ Locate and activate your Business or Home Emergency Plan and check your Emergency Kit or Grab and Go bag
- ✓ Check on your neighbours and make sure they are aware of potential flooding
- ✓ Stack possessions, records, stock or equipment on benches and tables, placing electrical items on top
- ✓ Relocate waste containers, chemicals and poisons well above floor level
- ✓ Move animals, including agisted animals, to high ground and prepare pets for possible evacuation
- ✓ Secure objects that are likely to float and cause damage
- ✓ Stay away from and keep children clear of drains, culverts, creeks and low lying areas

How the NSW SES can help you

The NSW SES is responsible for responding to floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and engaging with communities about how to protect themselves and their property.

During floods the NSW SES will provide flood information, safety advice and can arrange for the delivery of essential supplies to people isolated by floodwater. Where possible, the NSW SES will conduct evacuations and undertake flood rescue.



FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

For more information visit:

www.ses.nsw.gov.au



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Flash Flood Guide



Cover image: Toowoomba Queensland.
Image provided by Reuters

What is flash flooding?

Flash flooding is a rapid rise in water after heavy rainfall over a short period of time. It does not usually last more than a few hours.

Low-lying areas (under bridges or around culverts, drains, creeks and causeways) can be more susceptible to flash flooding. These are often dangerous places to be if it floods.

Water associated with flash flooding can also move quickly over land in either natural depressions or along roadways and parkland.

Flash floodwater can place lives at risk. It can be several metres deep, rise quickly and move fast.



If you live in an area with a potential for flash flooding, there will be less time for you to act to protect your family and property.

Prepare now. Put together an Emergency Kit consisting of a portable battery powered radio and torch, spare batteries, first aid kit, candles, waterproof matches, important papers, emergency plans and a waterproof bag.

Prepare your family and property now

Know your risk

- ✓ If you live or work close to a river, water course, creek, drain, culvert or in a low-lying area, you may be at risk from flash floods even if you have never experienced them. It is important to be aware of the possibility of flooding where you live, where you work, where you keep livestock and where you travel
- ✓ Find out about the local flood history. A copy of the local flood plan may be available from your council. Check with the local NSW SES unit or at www.ses.nsw.gov.au to find out if there is a local FloodSafe Guide. Contact your local council for specific information on how floods may affect your property
- ✓ Be aware of natural signs of flash flooding. These can include heavy rainfall and rushing or pooling water
- ✓ Talk with your neighbours and people who have lived in the area for a while about the local flood risk
- ✓ Knowing your flood risk will help you plan. It is important to plan now so that you know what to do when flooding occurs
- ✓ Even if your property is not inundated by floodwater, you could become isolated. Access to other areas may be cut and you might lose power, water and sewerage

Know where to go

- ✓ Find the safest route to travel in the event that you might need to evacuate. Identify places where evacuation routes may be cut and locate alternate routes
- ✓ Check with friends or relatives outside the flood prone area to organise a place to go. Find out where potential evacuation centres could be in your area

Know who to call

- ✓ For emergency help in floods and storms, call the NSW SES on 132 500
- ✓ In a life-threatening emergency, call 000 (triple zero)
- ✓ Keep local emergency numbers handy (near your phone or on your fridge)

Know your plan

- ✓ If you have a Home and/or Business Emergency Plan, review it. Otherwise, have a conversation and plan for what you will do and take with you if you need to evacuate.
- ✓ Review your plan annually or after any floods to keep it current

Stay informed

Monitor weather conditions and be aware of environmental cues such as very heavy rainfall. In flash flood areas, this may be the only indication of possible flash flooding.

The Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au) issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings for a range of dangerous weather. They may also provide warnings for possible flash flooding

NSW SES may issue warnings based on the predictions of the Bureau of Meteorology with additional information about the expected consequences for local communities and what actions you should take.

Check with your local council to find out if there is a flash flood warning system for your area.

It is important to remember that most flash floods happen with little or no warning. Plan to act early. It is safer to stay well clear of flash floods.

- ✓ Flood information including, safety advice, evacuations and road closures may be broadcast over local radio stations
- ✓ Keep monitoring local media for further information, updates, warnings and advice
- ✓ Check with friends and neighbours to make sure they are aware of any warnings



NEVER ENTER FLOODWATER



Never enter or travel through floodwater. This includes walking, driving, riding and playing in floodwater. Entering floodwater is the leading cause of death during floods.