



What Can I Do?



Download the FEMA app on your Android or Apple device to receive emergency alerts and information to know what to do before, during and after a disaster.

You can also sign up to receive local emergency messages and calls to your home, business or cell phones.

Custer County: Visit their website, or call 719-783-4207

Fremont County: Visit their website, or call 719-276-7422

Huerfano County: Visit their website, or call 719-738-3000 ext 121

Las Animas County: Visit their website, or call 719-845-2566

Pueblo County: Visit their website, or call 719-583-6200



Before a Flood

Make an emergency household and communication plan. Make sure everyone in your household knows the plan and can implement it if necessary.

- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding. Install “check valves” in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers (levees, beams, sandbags, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.
- Protect important documents and valuables by placing in waterproof containers or in an elevated location.

By acting NOW residents and business owners can protect themselves, and help reduce property damage and economic loss

During a Flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. *Do not wait for instructions to move.*
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must leave your home and you have time, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. *If you have time*, move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- If you have to leave your home do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

Should I Shelter in Place?

There are several things to consider when determining whether to move up to higher ground or shelter-in-place. During a flood, most often the best action is to move up to an elevated location. That can be accomplished by sheltering in place at the highest place in the home or by leaving your location to find refuge. Consider:

- Where is my location in relation to the flood areas and probable flooding pathways?
- Is there an upper level in my home to shelter in place or can I take shelter on the roof?
- How long will it take to reach a safe location outside my home? You may want to coordinate staying with a neighbor in an area outside the immediate flood area.

Move Up!

If sheltering in place is not a safe option, you will need to move up to higher ground immediately.

- Go by foot to your pre-determined safe location that is away from your home. This may be a neighbor’s house at a higher elevation or a few blocks outside the flood path. Determine the safest route that avoids crossing low-lying and flooded areas.
- If you are in an area where the slopes have been severely burned, the ground may be unstable. Use an alternate route if possible.
- Stay out of floodwaters. Swift-moving water and debris can be deadly and the ground under water may be unstable.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Leaving the area can pose significant dangers. Road washouts and landslides can occur along escape routes. If you plan to try to leave the area, give yourself as much time as possible and know that it still may not be enough (see “Driving Flood Facts”).

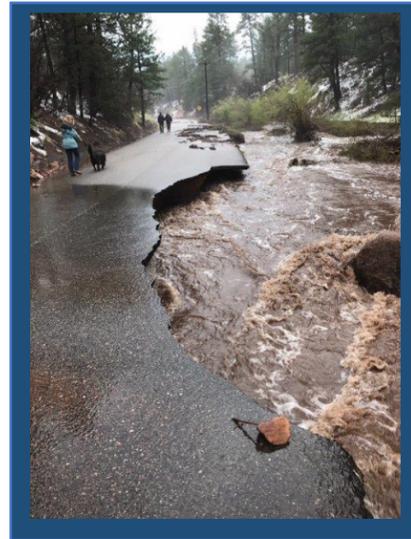


Driving Flood Facts

- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling. If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.

After a Flood

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Minimize cell phone usage to avoid overtaxing cell phone system for emergency responders. Communicate by texting, when possible.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to your local utility company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.



*For More Information, Contact your Local Emergency
Management Office*

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Preparedness Guide

Flash Flood and Debris Flow

What is debris flow?

A debris flow is a moving mass of loose mud, sand, soil, rock, water and air that travels down a slope under the influence of gravity. To be considered a debris flow, the moving material must be loose and capable of "flow," and at least 50% of the material must be sand-sized particles or larger. Debris flows often occur in an area recently burned by wildfire.

Some debris flows are very fast—these are the ones that attract attention. In areas of very steep slopes they can reach speeds of over 100 miles per hour, though most travel between 10 and 30 miles per hour.



Preparing Makes Sense

Take the time to plan for how you will take care of yourself and your family during a flash flood or debris flow emergency. Debris flows and flooding can happen very quickly, and you may need to take action before an "official" warning is issued!

By planning ahead, you can:

- Understand how a disaster may affect you and take steps to minimize those effects now. Reduce fear and anxiety by knowing what to do.
- Be self-sufficient for three to five days if first responders can't reach you immediately after a disaster.
- Be ready to help others and allow first responders to help those in the most immediate life-threatening situations.