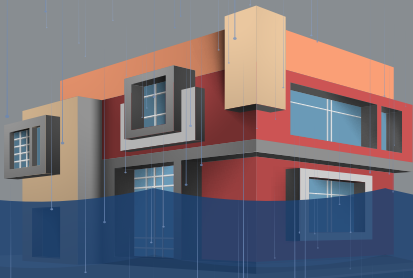


# FAST Guide To Emergency Prep: **Floods**

## The Dangers Of Floods

Floods cause more damage and death than any other extreme weather event in the U.S. They can strike just about anywhere, from coastlines to deserts; and in the case of flash floods, you only have minutes to react, so it's crucial to prepare ahead of time.

This guide offers tips to help keep you and your employees safe before, during and after one of these natural disasters.



Approximately **200 deaths** per year are caused by **flash flooding**.



In the past five years **all 50 states** have experienced floods or flash floods.

## Before A Flood



### Create An Emergency Action Plan

Have a written plan in place in case of a flood emergency. All employees should undergo training so they understand where to go and what to do in case of an emergency.

### Make An Emergency Preparedness Kit

A basic disaster supply kit will help to prepare you and your employees in the event of a flood. The kit should include supplies such as:

Flashlights

First aid kits

Non-perishable food items

Water

A Battery powered radio

Batteries



### Know The Terms

Familiarize yourself and employees with these terms to identify a flooding hazard:

**Flood Watch** - "Be Aware." Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.

**Flood Warning** - "Take Action!" Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.



## During A Flood

### Turn Around, Don't Drown!

Over half of flood related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into flood water. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

### Shut It Down

If possible before evacuating, turn off all utilities at the main switches or valves. This will help to prevent other emergencies such as explosions or fires.



### Keep Listening

Stay tuned to local radio and TV for weather updates.



## After A Flood

### Stay Out Of The Water

The contents of flooded water are most often unknown; it could be contaminated or electrically charged. Be sure to immediately wash any skin that comes into contact with the water.

### Capture It

Document all of the damage to your facility, equipment and inventory. Take pictures and make a list of everything that will need to be repaired or replaced.



### Clean And Disinfect

Scrub surfaces with hot water and a heavy-duty cleaner. Disinfect with a solution of 1/4 cup chlorine bleach per gallon of water or a product labeled as a disinfectant to kill germs.



## Visit Your Local Fastenal Store

A flood can devastate an area in mere minutes - which is about how long it takes to stock up on flood survival basics at your local Fastenal store.

Each of our 2,600+ locations is a convenient, one-stop source for everything you'll need to minimize injury, navigate the aftermath, and get back up and running. It's local, it's simple, and it just may be the smartest purchase you'll make this year.



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### Sources:

<https://www.ready.gov/floods>  
<https://www.floodsmart.gov>  
<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov>