

**March 2008**

---

## **Emergency Preparedness Pointers**

---

### **The Nation's Number One Natural Hazard**

In the last 10 years this natural disaster has cost \$24.5 billion dollars in losses nationally. Depending on the location of your home, you could have a 26% chance of experiencing damages from this hazard over the 30 year life of your mortgage. By national average, your home has a 1- 2% chance of a large house fire over that same period. If you have a mortgage you likely have fire insurance, you may even have smoke detectors. This is all preparation for an event that has a 1- 2% chance of occurring. But have you assessed your risk of flooding? **FLOODING** is, after all, the number one natural hazard in the United States.

#### **Are You At Risk?**



There are ways you can assess your home's risk of flooding. One method is to use the flood maps that are available at the Idaho Department of Water Resources website:

<http://maps.idwr.idaho.gov/floodhazard>

Additionally, local jurisdictions have the information available to the residents of their area. The following table lists the agencies to contact based on location.

<b><u>JURISDICTION</u></b>	<b><u>AGENCY</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE</u></b>
Ada County, Unincorporated Areas	Ada County Development Services 200 W. Front St. Rm. 2119, Boise, ID 83702	287-7900
Boise City	Boise Public Works 150 N. Capital Blvd., Boise, ID 83702	384-3900
Eagle City	Eagle Building Department 660 E. Civic Lane, Eagle, ID 83616	489-8760
Garden City	Garden City Public Works 6015 Glenwood St., Garden City, ID 83714	472-2900
Star City	Star City Hall 11525 Highway 44, Star, ID 83669	286-7247
State Coordinator for National Flood Insurance	National Flood Insurance Program 322 E. Front St., Boise, ID 83702	287-4800

---

#### **What Is A 100 Year Flood?**

The term "100 Year Flood" can cause some confusion. It is not meant to predict that a big flood will occur once every century. It means that there is a 1% chance each and every year of this type of flood occurring. If your home is within a 100 year flood plain then it has a 26% chance of experiencing a flood sometime over a 30 year period. A 500 year flood means that there is a 0.2 % chance of that type of event occurring in any given year. If your home is within a 500 year floodplain then it has a 6% chance of experiencing a flood over a 30 year period.

## Flood Watch vs. Flood Warning

### Flood Watch:

Flooding is possible in the area, be alert and stay tuned to the TV or radio for current information. Be prepared to evacuate to higher ground if so instructed.

### Flood Warning:

A flood has been reported and is occurring or is imminent.

If a **Flash Flood WARNING** is issued in your area, evacuate immediately. You must act quickly.

## When The Sirens Sound ... Seek High Ground

Seven sirens were installed in the Boise Foothills to warn residents living in those areas of flash flooding. In the event of a flash flood emergency, the sirens will sound a steady, continuous tone for a minimum of 3 minutes. The sirens are tested at noon on the first Saturday of each month. During the test, they sound for approximately 15- 30 seconds.



For Current Weather Information Go To: [www.weather.gov/boise](http://www.weather.gov/boise)

## PREPARATION TIPS :

### ► Develop & Practice an Evacuation Plan

Identify your evacuation route, including alternates, and know where you will go if you are told to evacuate. Consider what you will do if separated from other family members. Pick a place where you all can meet somewhere out of the flood zone.

### ► Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit

Your kit should contain those items that you may need during an evacuation or extended loss of utilities. Some basic items include a first aid kit, food & water, personal medications, battery operated radio for the latest storm information, flashlight and extra batteries and cash. Store your kit in an easy to carry container in a convenient, easily accessible place known to all family members.

### ► Purchase a Tone-Activated Weather Alert Radio

The warning for a flash flood could be as little as 5 minutes. A tone-activated weather alert radio will instantly alert you of a Flash Flood Warning that has been issued by the National Weather Service. They are available through many of the electronics retailers.

### ► Purchase Flood Insurance

In deciding whether you need flood insurance it is best to use common sense more than the letter of the law. Most homeowners policies do not include flooding as part of the coverage. You should examine your risk and consult your insurance agent. Nationally, 25% of all flood insurance claims come from homes with a low to moderate risk. There is normally a 30 day waiting period for a flood policy to take effect, so please plan ahead.

## Want More Information?

The ACCEM website is loaded with useful information and links. You can review disaster and mitigation plans along with finding more information on flood sirens and preparedness. Check out: [www.accem.org](http://www.accem.org)



Ada -County Emergency Management  
7200 Barrister Drive ♦ Boise, ID. 83704 ♦ (208) 577-4750 ♦ FAX (208) 577-4759  
HOME PAGE: [www.accem.org](http://www.accem.org) ♦ E-MAIL: [pmarusich@adaweb.net](mailto:pmarusich@adaweb.net)