

WINTER WEATHER WEEK 2007: FLOODS AND FLASH FLOODS

Last winter (2006-07), the Pacific Northwest experienced a very wet start to the winter season...followed by several months of below normal precipitation. Could this year be different? The answer is definitely **YES**. During most winters, storms bring long periods of heavy rain and snow to the Pacific Northwest. In addition to extended rain, flooding can also occur due to ice jams, where large floes of ice pile up. This pile-up of ice can act like a dam, causing water to back up and flood. Warm weather can also cause snow on the middle and higher mountains to melt, putting more water into already rain-swollen streams. More people die in flood related events than from any other natural disaster. The majority of these deaths involve trying to drive through flooded areas.

Flood Watch...

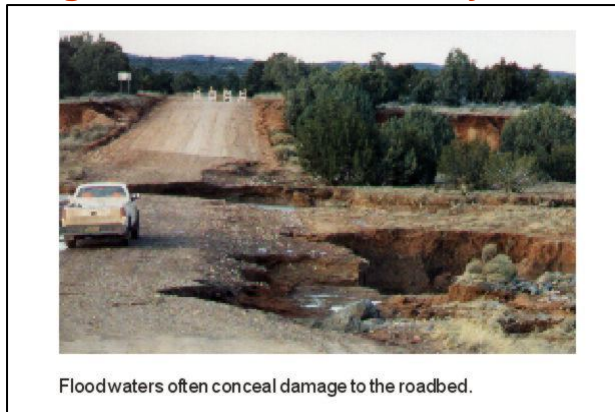
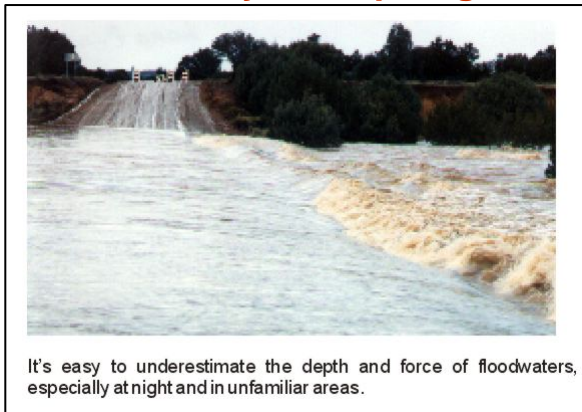
This means that flooding is possible with the watch area. You should remain alert and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

Flood Warning...

This means that flooding has been reported, or is imminent. When a flood warning is issued for your area, act quickly to save yourself. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Go to higher ground, or climb to safety. Move to a safe area before access is cut off by rising flood waters. Nearly half of all flood fatalities are auto-related. Water that is two feet deep will carry away most automobiles. Never attempt to drive through a flooded roadway. If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

The best advice if you are in a vehicle: TURN AROUND...Don't DROWN.

Would you stop or go on through this flooded roadway?



You may think: "I can cross this...Hmmm, then again..."