

Flood Preparedness: Stay Safe & Informed

Floods can happen fast or build slowly—but all can be dangerous. Here's what you need to know to protect your home, business, and loved ones in Warner Springs.

Types of Floods

River Floods

These occur when rivers or streams overflow due to prolonged heavy rainfall across large areas. They're most common near floodplains and watersheds.

Flash Floods

These develop quickly—sometimes within minutes. They're caused by intense rain or rapid snowmelt that overwhelms the ground's ability to absorb water. Flash floods are especially dangerous in areas damaged by wildfires, narrow canyons, and places with poor drainage like city streets and neighborhoods.

How to Prepare

Before a Flood:

- Turn off electricity if water is rising or power lines are down.
- Shut off gas and water before evacuating.
- Secure loose or unstable building materials.
- Install backflow valves or plugs in toilets and drains to prevent sewage backup.
- Prepare a car emergency kit with food, water, flares, booster cables, maps, tools, a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, sleeping bags, sturdy shoes, and waterproof gloves.
- Store at least one gallon of water per person and pet per day, for a minimum of three days.
- Fill your gas tank early. If you don't have a vehicle, arrange transportation with friends, family, or neighbors.
- Protect important documents—such as medical records, insurance cards, and IDs—in waterproof containers.
- Make a plan for pets. Contact your local emergency management office to ask about pet-friendly shelters and evacuation procedures.