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ABOUT

WEATHER  
ALERTS

## SHARE THE NEWS ABOUT WEATHER ALERTS

### Did you hear there's a Flood Watch in effect?

If so, please spread the word! If you have already taken steps to be prepared, and are signed up for "flood alerts," you may be among the first to know that the National Weather Service is predicting a possible flood in your area. **Sharing news about flood watches and warnings can be an important way to help protect your friends, family and community.** Call people you know who live near the water and let them know about the flood watch or warning, and tell them to visit the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service website at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> to monitor the projected river levels.

When sharing news, it's important to understand the terms Flood Watch and Flood Warning. The National Weather Service issues a Flood Watch when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but that it is possible. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring. These definitions are the same for "Flash Flood" watches and warnings. Flash Floods are floods that occur very quickly, usually over localized areas of a stream, and waters can rise as high as 30 feet in a very short period of time. Because of the extremely fast rise of the water, flash floods are especially difficult to forecast, are more difficult to prepare for, and are the most frequent cause of flood fatalities.

Sharing your personal flood experiences with others can be another powerful way to help others learn about the dangers of flooding, and how to prepare. Tell your friends what you are doing to prepare. Do you have an emergency go-kit and evacuation plan? If so, talk with others about what you've decided, and encourage your family and neighbors to make their own plans.

[www.focusonfloods.org](http://www.focusonfloods.org)

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