ALPINE COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: December 29, 2022
RE: Debris Flows and Flash Flooding in Eastern Alpine County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DEBRIS FLOWS AND FLOOD FLOODING POSSIBLE FRIDAY MORNING THROUGH SATURDAY EVENING DUE TO LARGE-SCALE RAIN EVENTS:

Due to large scale rain events in Eastern Alpine County, the Alpine County Unified Command recommends residents remain vigilant and prepare for flash flooding and debris flows in areas adjacent to rivers, streams and burned slopes affected by the Tamarack Fire.

Sand Bags can be filled at the following locations:
Fire Station 91: 60 Diamond Valley Rd., Markleeville, CA 96120
Fire Station 92: 860 Hot Springs Rd, Markleeville, CA 96120

National Weather Service Notice: https://bit.ly/3hQwLlq

"Another warm atmospheric river is expected to push into the Sierra and western Nevada beginning on Friday. High snow levels and prolonged heavy rainfall will allow for significant rises on both mainstem and smaller rivers/streams. This may result in minor to moderate flooding on some area rivers and streams. Rock falls will be possible, especially in steep terrain and where soils are already saturated. Some urban flooding is likely, particularly in low-lying areas or poor drainage." National Weather Service

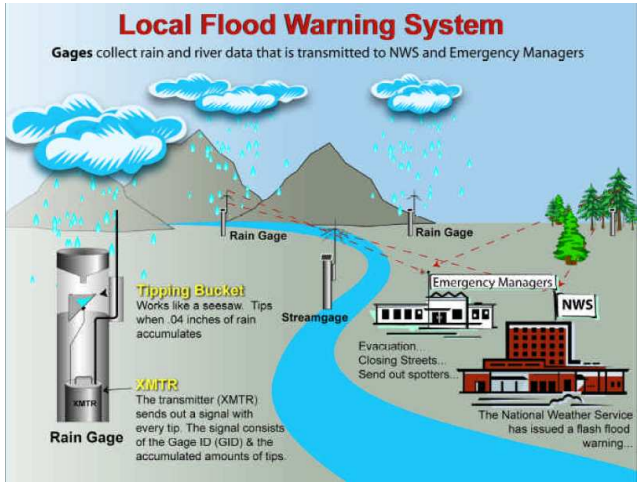
Emergency Services
Emergency Dispatch: 911
Alpine County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Dispatch: 530-694-2231
CalTrans Road Conditions: https://dot.ca.gov/travel

Media Inquiries Regarding Alpine County Evacuations & Re-Entry
JT Chevallier
Public Information Officer
Alpine County
530-721-1339
jchevallier@alpinecountyca.gov

What causes River Flooding?

- Persistent storms over the same area for long periods of time.
- Combined rainfall and snowmelt
- Ice jams
- Releases from man made lakes
- Releases from man made lakes
- Excessive rain from tropical systems making landfall.

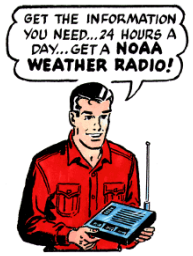
How does the NWS issue Flood/Flash Flood Warnings?



National Weather Service forecasters rely on a network of almost 10,000 gages to monitor the height of rivers and streams across the Nation. This gage data is only one of many different sources for data. Forecasters use data from the Doppler Radar, surface weather observations, snow melt/cover information and many other different data sources in order to monitor the threat for flooding.

Stay informed!

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio or television for the latest weather and river forecasts.



To check out the latest river forecast information and current stages on our area rivers, visit:

https://www.weather.gov/rev/

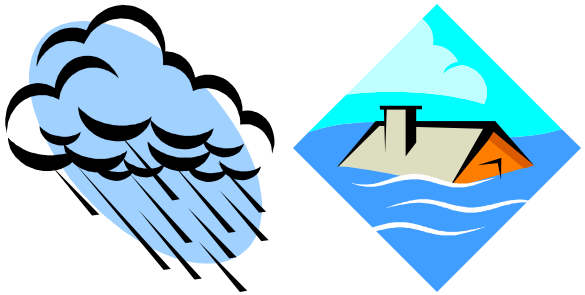
Check out the National Weather Service Reno website for the latest information at https://www.weather.gov/rev/

Call for the latest forecast from the National Weather Service's Weather Information Now number:

Reno, NV: (775) 673-8100

Severe Weather Safety Guide

Flash Flooding



A reference guide from your National Weather Service

FLOODS KILL MORE PEOPLE PER YEAR THAN ANY OTHER WEATHER PHENOMENAN.

What are Flash Floods?

A flash flood is a rapid rise of water along a stream or low-lying urban area. Flash flood damage and most fatalities tend to occur in areas immediately next to a stream, due to a combination of heavy rain, dam break, levee failure, rapid snowmelt, and ice jams. Flash floods can be produced when slow moving or multiple thunderstorms occur over the same area. Flash floods have two key elements: Rainfall intensity and duration.

Flood Products Issued by the National Weather Service:

Flood Watch: Developing weather conditions indicate there is a threat of flooding.

Flood Warning: Flooding is expected in normally dry areas due to increased water levels on either a river, stream or drainage ditch.

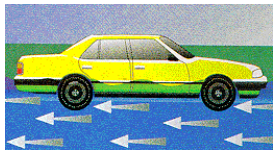
Flash Flood Warning: Excessive rain falling in a short period of time, usually less than 6 hours, which results in fast and serious flooding of normally dry areas.

Urban & Small Stream Advisory: High water or flooding is expected in small streams, streets, and low lying areas such as railroad underpasses, and urban storm drains.

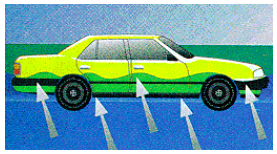
FACT: Almost half of all flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles.

- As little as 6 inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs & pickups.

Water weighs 62.4 lbs per cubic foot and typically flows downstream at 6 to 12 miles an hour.



When a vehicle stalls in the water, the water's momentum is transferred to the car.



For each foot the water rises up the side of the car, the car displaces 1500 lbs of water. So, the car weighs 1500 lbs less for each foot the water rises.

Two feet of water will carry away most automobiles (trucks and SUVs too!).

- Be cautious at night when it is harder to recognize the dangers of flash flooding. Flood water can eat away at the road underneath, causing you to be stranded or trapped.
- Never drive into flooded roadways! If you come upon flood waters, STOP and TURN around and go another way.
- If the vehicle you are in stalls, abandon it and seek higher ground immediately.
- Underpasses can fill rapidly with water. Driving into a flooded underpass can quickly put you in 5-6 feet of water.

Flooding Safety Tips:

- Keep alert for signs of heavy rain (thunder and lightning).
- Watch for rising water levels.
- Know where high ground is and move quickly if you see or hear rapidly rising water.
- Do not attempt to walk, swim, play or drive in flood waters. You may not be able to see how fast the flood water is moving or see holes or submerged debris.
- Avoid setting up a campsite near streams or low areas where flooding is likely.
- Listen to weather forecasts and keep away from streams if thunderstorms have occurred or have been predicted near your location.
- When thunderstorms are in the area, stay alert for rapidly changing conditions.
- Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines, viaducts or culverts.
- If water is moving swiftly, even water six inches deep can knock you off your feet. Many people are swept away while wading through flood waters.