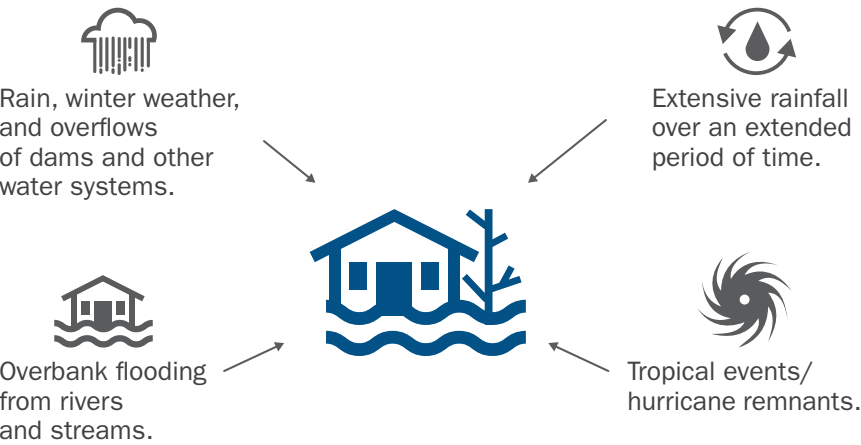


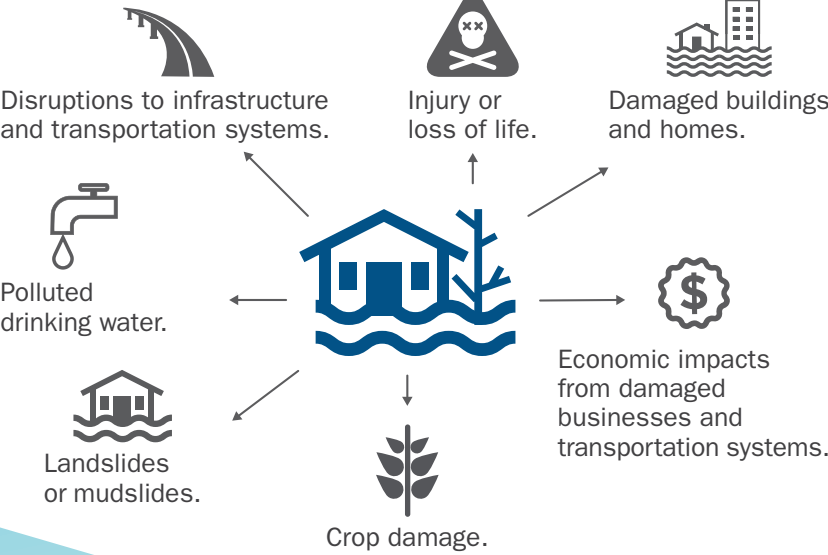
# RIVERINE/FLASH FLOODING

Flooding is a temporary overflow or overrun of water onto an area that is normally dry. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Flash floods develop quickly, sometimes in just a few minutes or without any visible signs of rain.


## CAUSES




## IMPACTS




## How I Can Reduce My Risk




Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy through the National Flood Insurance Program.




Improve area drainage/slope around your home. Elevate, relocate and protect structures at risk.




Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. Just 6 inches of water can knock you down, and 1 foot of water can carry your vehicle away. Turn around, don't drown!




Avoid bridges over fast-moving water.




Leave areas that flood and avoid floodwaters. Move to a higher floor or higher ground, if possible.




Know your evacuation zone/route. Follow evacuation orders and never drive around barricades.




Protect your property. Move valuables to a higher floor. Keep drains and gutters clear. Install "check valves" in sewer lines to prevent floodwater from backing up in the drains of your home. Install a sump pump with a battery. Waterproof the basement.




Listen to the Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio or local alert system for current emergency information and instructions.




If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.




If trapped in a building, move to the highest floor. Do not climb into a closed attic.




Keep important documents in a waterproof container and on an upper floor. Create password-protected digital copies.




## How Local Officials Can Reduce My Risk




Strengthen local floodplain ordinances.




Reduce impervious surfaces.




Conduct outreach on flood safety.




Pursue mitigation projects, including buyouts and elevation projects, preserving green space, restoring streams, managing runoff and limiting development in flood-prone areas.




Provide a warning system. Familiarize residents with regularly scheduled tests.



Use Risk MAP products to help communicate risk.



Install green infrastructure systems in addition to traditional stormwater projects.



Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System.

## Additional Resources

Ready.gov  
[www.ready.gov/floods](http://www.ready.gov/floods)

FloodSmart.gov  
[www.floodsmart.gov/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/)

Contact your local or state emergency management department for more information on flood risk reduction.