

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Sunday, March 16, 2008

...2008 National Flood Safety Awareness Week...

Monday, March 17th, through Friday, March 21st, has been designated as Flood Safety Awareness Week. Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories in all months of the year. National Flood Safety Awareness Week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property.

On average across the United States, floods kill nearly 100 people and cause approximately 4.6 million dollars in damage each year. No state or territory is immune from the dangers of flooding.

Flooding can occur anywhere and at any time. Floods can arrive within moments or over a longer period of time. They can roll boulders the size of cars, destroy buildings and bridges, and take lives. Knowing how to react when floods threaten can mean the difference between life and death.

A majority of flood related deaths occur when people drive onto flooded roadways or walk through moving water. Many people do not realize that as little as six inches of quick moving water can knock a person off of their feet and that two feet of water can float most vehicles, including trucks and sport utility vehicles. While most floods cannot be prevented, there are simple steps you can take to help protect your life and property.

Throughout this week, the National Weather Service will be providing the public with a different flood topic each day. Topics that will be discussed include hydrological services, flood terminology, flood risk and insurance, and flood safety tips.

Additional information about flooding and flood safety, including educational materials, videos, brochures, and articles, can be found at WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV.