

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

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

The National Weather Service continues its annual Flood Safety Awareness Week today through Friday, March 21st.

The theme for today is flooding terminology.

Floods can occur nationwide and are the deadliest weather related killer in the United States. Flooding can take many forms, including river flooding, ice jams, urban flooding, and flash flooding. All of these forms of flooding can be life threatening, and action must be taken immediately if a flood threat exists.

Here are a few of the terms that you may hear from the National Weather Service where there is a threat of flooding.

- A Flood Watch or Flash Flood Watch means conditions are favorable for flooding to occur.
- A Flood Warning or Flash Flood Warning means flooding is occurring or imminent.
- Minor Flooding means minimal or no property damage is expected to occur...but the flooding could cause some public threat or inconvenience.
- Moderate flooding means some inundation of structures and roads near streams will occur. Some evacuations of people to higher elevations are necessary.
- Major flooding means there is extensive inundation of structures and roads along with possible significant evacuations of people and/or the transfer of property to higher elevations.

Additional information about Flood Safety Awareness Week can be found at

WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV.