

## FOR FLASH FLOOD AND THUNDERSTORM INFORMATION

1. US National Weather Service
2. Local Police, Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol
3. Automobile Association—AAA, etc.
4. County Flood Control District Office
5. US Army Corps of Engineers Local Office
6. State Disaster Office

## RETURN FROM YOUR OUTDOOR TRIP ALIVE

Always carry survival gear.

Listen to radio weather reports.

Inform someone of your destination and when you expect to return.

Visually check sky frequently for storm clouds.

Establish campsites on high ground.

Prepared by the Los Angeles District, US Army Corps of Engineers, with the cooperation of the National Weather Service, Western Region.

# DANGER!



## FLASH FLOOD CHECKLIST FOR SURVIVAL

## WHAT CAUSES FLASH FLOODS?

When a violent thunderstorm breaks over the mountains and deserts of the Southwest, runoff from the torrential rains cascades into the steep canyons in a matter of minutes. Walls of water sometimes 10 to 30 feet high swirl through the canyons and arroyos, picking up mud, boulders, trees, and other debris. Plants, animals, and sometimes man are caught, swept along, and battered in the onrushing torrent of the flash flood. Flash floods can result from thunderstorms centered over mountains many miles away.

## FLASH FLOOD SEASONS

Flash floods can occur in the southwestern United States at any time of the year, but the predominant seasons are summer and early fall. They can occur as the result of: Isolated thunderstorms — late June to mid-September; Tropical storms or other general storms — mostly August to October.

## THUNDERSTORM IDENTIFICATION



A thunderstorm cloud, called cumulonimbus, is a large towering cloud, frequently spreading out on top into the shape of an anvil. It usually appears dark and threatening when viewed from below, but very bright and white when seen from the side at some distance.

## PROTECT YOUR LIFE

1. Keep an eye to the sky. Check the sky frequently for thunderstorm clouds.
2. Listen frequently to weather reports on radio.
3. Camp on high ground, but not on top of exposed peaks or ridges.
4. Avoid deep canyons and dry washes during stormy or threatening weather.
5. If a thunderstorm strikes, move to high ground immediately. If you cannot move your vehicle out of a low-lying area, abandon it, but take your survival gear with you. Do not attempt to outrun a flash flood in your car.
6. Follow the instructions of local authorities. If you are warned to leave an area—LEAVE. Many lives have been lost needlessly because people refused to heed the warnings of police officers, park rangers, and other officials.
7. Inform someone of your destination and when you expect to return. Police should be notified immediately if you do not return on time.
8. Take survival supplies for several days, including food, water, first aid equipment, and necessary medication. In desert areas during hot weather, allow 3-4 gallons of water per day, per person.