

Severe Weather Awareness

FLOOD

A flood is defined as the overflowing of rivers, streams, and lakes due to excessive rainfall or rapid snowmelt. There are several forms of flooding including flash floods (quickly rising streams after heavy rain or rapid snowmelt); ice jam (ice that accumulates at a natural or human-made obstruction and slows the flow of water); riverine (periodic overflow of rivers and streams); and urban (overflow of storm sewer systems following heavy rain or rapid snowmelt exceeding the system capacity). Morrison County and Minnesota are subject to seasonal flooding and major flood events.

With the presence of the Mississippi River and numerous lakes and streams, Morrison County is susceptible to flooding.

Preparedness

Know the terms used to describe flood threats:

- **Flood or Flash Flood Watch** is issued when conditions are right, usually during periods of heavy rain or snowmelt.
- **Flood Warning** means a flood is imminent or is occurring in certain locations.
- **Flash Flood Warning** is issued when there are reports of flash floods.

Other preparedness tips:

- Determine if your home or business is at risk for flooding. Contact the Morrison County Land Services Department for flood maps at 320-632-0170. Or visit the Morrison County Beacon website to view the floodplain map layer.
- Go to [floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov)'s Flood Risk Assessment; type in your property address to determine your relative risk for flooding, view flood maps and obtain flood insurance resources.
- Find out if you qualify for the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) by contacting your insurance agent.
- To prevent flood waters from backing up in drains, install check valves in sewer traps.
- Make a disaster supplies kit. Include additional materials like sandbags, plastic sheeting, plywood, and lumber that can help fortify your home during a flood.

Response

- Stay tuned to radio and television news for announcements on possible evacuations. If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately and follow the recommended routes.
- Secure your home and possessions. Move and secure outdoor items so they won't float away. If possible, turn off all utilities at the main switch.
- **NEVER** drive over flooded roads. Even a few inches of water can cause your vehicle to stall or float. The National Weather Service's "[Turn Around, Don't Drown](#)" campaign details the threats of driving and walking in flood waters.

Recovery

- If your property has been affected by the flooding, immediately call your insurance agency for assistance.
- Check the exterior of the building for structural damage before you enter. Open the doors and windows and let air out - this will release odors and gas that may have built up.
- Use only battery-powered flashlights when you enter the building in case of a gas buildup. Contact utility providers to turn on power and gas services if it was shut off at your home.
- Do not eat any fresh food that has come in contact with flood waters. Do not drink water from your tap until it is tested and if applicable, the well has been pumped.

- To start drying out the building, open all windows and doors and start removing mud and other debris while it is still wet.

Additional Resources

[Basic Flood Tips](#)

[What to do with your septic system after a flood?](#)

[Flood Precautions for Private Water Wells](#)

[Emergency Supply List](#)