



National Weather Service

Definitions for New York State



FLOODING



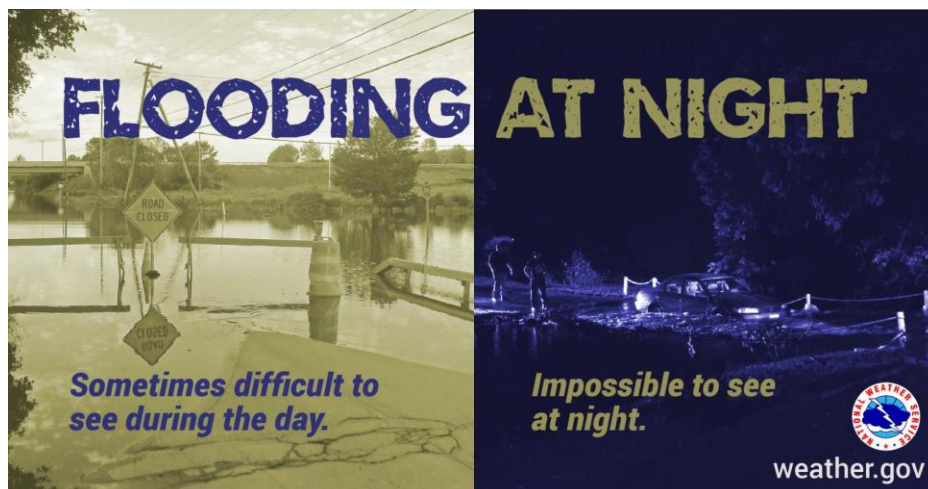
MINOR FLOODING - minimal or no property damage, but possibly some public threat or inconvenience.

MODERATE FLOODING - some inundation of structures and roads near streams/ivers; some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher ground elevations necessary.

MAJOR FLOODING - extensive inundation of structures and roads; significant evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.



FLOOD ADVISORY /BE AWARE/ - issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.





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FLOOD WATCH /BE PREPARED/ - issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

FLOOD WARNING /TAKE ACTION/ - issued when flooding is imminent or already happening.

FLOOD WATCH

A Flood Watch is issued when **flooding is possible**.

Stay tuned to trusted news sources and be ready to seek higher ground.

Be Prepared.

FLOOD WARNING

A Flood Warning is issued when **flooding is happening or about to happen**.

Move to higher ground immediately! Never drive or walk through floodwaters.

Take Action!

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FLASH FLOOD WARNING /TAKE ACTION/ - issued when flooding is imminent or occurring. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY – Issued when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage from a flash flood is happening or will happen soon. Issuance is rare.

Flash Flood EMERGENCY

ISSUED FOR...
Exceedingly rare situations when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage from a flash flood is happening or will happen soon.

ISSUED WHEN...
Dangerous flash flooding is happening or will happen soon. Some roads will be flooded. Homes and businesses may flood.

Take Action!
Move to higher ground. Never drive through flooded roads.

This is a life-threatening situation! Do not attempt to travel unless you are fleeing an area subject to flooding or under an evacuation order.

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