



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

Robert L. Quinn, Commissioner
Richard C. Bailey, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Eddie Edwards, Assistant Commissioner



Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Jennifer L. Harper, Director
Grant M. Nichols, Assistant Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 9, 2021

Vanessa Palange, Community Outreach Coordinator

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

C: (603) 545-9499

PRESS RELEASE

TROPICAL STORM ELSA LEADS TO FLASH FLOOD WARNING IN PARTS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, N.H. – The National Weather Service in Gray, Maine issued a Flash Flood Warning for parts of Merrimack, Strafford, Hillsborough and Rockingham counties through 9:00 P.M. Friday, July 9, 2021. Flash flooding is imminent or already occurring and everyone in the warning area should *take action, seek higher ground immediately and avoid all floodwaters.*

Remnants of Tropical Storm Elsa is bringing very heavy rain to parts of the State and this Flash Flood Warning should be taken seriously. Stay aware of changing conditions and heed instructions from local safety officials.

“If you are in an area where flooding is occurring, take action immediately and move to higher ground,” said state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer Harper. “If you are in a vehicle, *turn around, don’t drown.* Never drive through flooded roadways. If you need emergency assistance, dial 9-1-1.”

Campers staying at sites along rivers and streams, and campgrounds in low-lying parts across the warning area are strongly encouraged to evacuate if flooding is occurring.

Harper offers the following safety tips:

- Check the weather and listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for critical updates from the National Weather Service.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 1 foot of water can sweep your vehicle away. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- If you must evacuate, secure your home, including disconnecting electrical appliances.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water. Just 6 inches of water can reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- Avoid floodwaters as they may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

Office: 110 Smokey Bear Boulevard, Concord, N.H.
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03305
603-271-2231, 1-800-852-3792, Fax 603-223-3609
State of New Hampshire TDD Access: Relay 1-800-735-2964

These core steps are key to preparedness and keeping you and your family safe:

1. Stay informed by signing up for NH Alerts.
2. Make an emergency kit.
3. Have a family emergency plan.
4. Get involved in your community.

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NOTE: The [National Weather Service](#) issues a Flash Flood Warning when a flash flood is imminent or occurring.