



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

TROPICAL STORM FRED LEADS TO FLASH FLOOD WATCH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, N.H. – The National Weather Service in Gray, Maine, issued a Flash Flood Watch for much of New Hampshire from Thursday morning, August 19, 2021, through late Thursday night. Tropical Storm Fred is expected to bring rain to parts of Belknap, Merrimack, Carroll, Cheshire, Grafton, Sullivan, Hillsborough, Strafford and Rockingham counties. This event could result in heavy localized rainfall of amounts of 2 to 3 inches in some areas of the state.

Flash flooding is flooding that begins within 6 hours but often within 3 hours of heavy rain. Flash floods are the most dangerous kind of floods because they occur so quickly and their potential impact is largely unknown. A Flash Flood Watch means flash flooding is possible and everyone in the watch area should *be prepared*. A Flash Flood Warning means flash flooding is imminent or already occurring and everyone in the warning area should *take action and seek higher ground immediately*.

Residents and visitors should be prepared before flooding occurs and can learn more at ReadyNH.gov — <https://www.readynh.gov/disasters/floods.htm>.

“Check your local weather forecasts and know what to do if flooding does occur,” said state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer Harper. “Avoid walking through flooded areas and *never* drive through flooded roadways. Remember the saying ‘turn around, don’t drown’ as most flood deaths happen in vehicles.”

Campers staying at sites along rivers and streams, and campgrounds in low-lying parts across the watch area are strongly encouraged to know what to do if evacuation is needed. In the event a Flash Flood Warning is issued, campers should have a way to be aware of changing conditions and be prepared to evacuate to higher ground immediately.

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the U.S. and impact New Hampshire annually.

Harper offers the following safety tips:

- If flooding occurs get to higher ground immediately.
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for critical updates from the National Weather Service.

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

- 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.

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 Watch when conditions are favorable for flash flooding. It does not mean that flash flooding will occur, but it is possible.