

# Floods



## CERT Basic Training Hazards

# When Floods Occur

- Any time a body of water rises to cover what is usually dry land
- One of most common hazards
  - 75% of Federally declared disasters
- May be local or widespread
- May develop slowly or fast



# Causes of Floods and Flood Damage

- Heavy rain
- Spring snowmelt
- Dam and levee failure
- Low absorption or no soil percolation
- Business and residential growth in flood areas

# Factors Contributing to Flooding

- Rainfall intensity
- Rainfall duration
- Topography
- Soil conditions
- Ground cover



# Flood Hazards

- Heavy rainfall exacerbates problems with:
  - Runoff
  - Absorption
  - Flood-control measures
- Ravine flooding can inundate downstream areas
- In rocky and heavily paved areas, lack of absorption can cause flash flooding

# Flood Risks



- Most communities have some risk of flooding
- Damage increases with development in:
  - Coastal areas
  - Floodplains



# Flood Preparedness

- Know flood risk in area
- Prepare flood evacuation plan
- Obtain flood insurance if living in floodplain
- Keep important documents in water-proof box
- Check portable radio for current information and emergency messages

# Protecting Property

- Elevate furnace, water heater, and electric panel
- Move furniture and other items to higher level
- Install check valves
- Waterproof basement floor and walls

# If You Must Evacuate

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water
- Keep away from waterways
- Pay attention to barricades
- Avoid storm drains and irrigation ditches
- Keep family together

# After a Flood



- Stay out of flooded areas
- Reserve telephone for emergencies
- Avoid driving, except in emergencies
- Wait for authorities to issue message that it is safe to return
- Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house