

## **FLASH FLOODS IN BOULDER**

- Floods can happen anytime in Boulder, but there is an increased risk between April and September due to creek levels and weather patterns.
- Flash floods often occur with little warning following heavy rainfall upstream.
- Unlike slow-rising floods in other areas of the country, flash floods in Boulder can occur in a matter of minutes.
- You are putting yourself in danger if you go to the creek to witness a flood event. (Some people actually did this last year - don't be one of them.)
- Due to impacts from the 2010 fire in Fourmile Canyon, there remains an increased flood risk on Boulder Creek and Fourmile Canyon Creek. Rain events in the burn area could result in muddy creek water downstream, creek levels rising more quickly, and a higher frequency of flooded underpasses.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STAY SAFE**

- Be alert during severe thunderstorms and other hazardous events. Flash flooding can occur within minutes. Be ready to evacuate low-lying areas.
- Sign up to get emergency alerts sent to you on your phone, email or Twitter account at [www.BoCo911Alert.com](http://www.BoCo911Alert.com).
- Develop a [\*Family Flood Action Plan\*](#) and communication strategy with your family at home before a flood or other hazardous event occurs.
- Avoid driving a vehicle through flood waters. It only takes 18 inches of water for a car to float. Half of all flood-related fatalities are auto related.
  - You may be tempted to cross flooded waterways in order to respond to family or other personal concerns. Taking such risks will not improve the safety or welfare of loved ones if you end up injured or worse. Your family and friends want you home safely, even if that means arriving later.

## **FLOODS AT WORK**

- Develop a [\*Flood Action Plan\*](#) and communication strategy with your coworkers before a flood or other hazardous event occurs.
- Familiarize yourself with your workplace's response plan and with your workplace's designated evacuation check-in site.

- When an order to evacuate is given, move to high ground immediately and get out of harm's way. Do NOT cross creeks or bridges. If you are on the north side of Boulder Creek, go north. If you are on the south side, go south.
- All employees should contact their supervisors within two hours following a workplace evacuation to verify that all staff members are accounted for or to provide an update on what is being done to contact those who have not checked in.
- It is critical that employees have a [\*Family Flood Action Plan\*](#) established before a flood occurs so that they do not have to worry about their families if they cannot get home right away.

## **HOW WILL YOU KNOW?**

- Sign up to get emergency alerts sent to you on your phone, email or Twitter account at [www.BoCo911Alert.com](http://www.BoCo911Alert.com).
- The outdoor warning sirens are tested on the first Monday of each month between April and September at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. If you hear an outdoor warning siren at any other time, tune to local media stations for more information, and go to the Boulder Office of Emergency Management (OEM) website at [www.boulderoem.com](http://www.boulderoem.com) "Emergency Status" for updates on emergency events in Boulder County as they are occurring.
- If you are working in an office building after hours or on weekends and you are in a flood-prone area, pay attention to the weather forecast and alerts on local media.
- You can also follow Boulder OEM on Facebook and Twitter.
- Follow #boulderflood Twitter feed. This feed is also auto-populated on the city's [www.boulderfloodinfo.net](http://www.boulderfloodinfo.net) website.

Additional flood safety information is available at [www.boulderfloodinfo.net](http://www.boulderfloodinfo.net).

Be alert. Be safe.

Thank you for being prepared.