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**July 11, 2018**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

## Flash Flooding Safety Advice

**EL PASO, Texas** – With the arrival of the monsoon season this month, the El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public to be aware of the dangers of flash flooding.

A flash flood is any flood that develops in less than six hours. They can occur almost everywhere, but densely populated areas represent a higher risk as paved surfaces like parking lots, roads, highways, driveways and buildings can reduce the amount of surface area available to absorb rainwater. Runoff from these paved surfaces vastly heightens the chances of a flash flood.

The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the general public to stay safe from flash floods by providing the following advice:

- If a flash flood advisory is-in effect, do not go outside if you don't have to.
- Never walk, drive, swim or play in flood water, the canals, arroyos, or rivers. Don't drive into a flooded street. Never drive around a barricade. Turn around – don't drown!
- Remember that water is powerful. Six inches of rushing water can knock an adult off their feet. Twelve inches of water can stall vehicles (including trucks/SUVs) and carry them away. Plus, there may be the additional dangers of debris and contamination from trash.
- Be aware of changing weather conditions. Fast-moving water can fill streets within seconds. An upstream storm can send water crashing through arroyos, the river, and canals when local conditions are sunny and dry. Additionally, rainwater continues to flow down the mountain after storms pass through the neighborhood.
- Know where children are. Keep them away from stormwater canals, ponds, and channels.
- If someone needs help; call 9-1-1 immediately.

For more safety advice and updates, residents are encouraged to visit [epfire.org](http://epfire.org) and stay tuned to the [Office of Emergency Management](#) for updates.

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