

SEASONAL Flood Risks

FALL FLOODING:



- **Hurricane season** – Coastal and the surrounding inland areas are in flood zones that carry a high risk. Hurricanes cause major storms, washing up of coastal waters and monsoons.
- **Tropical storms** – Coastal and nearby inland areas are affected by flooding of tropical storms, which cause a clash between cold, dry and warm/humid air.

SPRING FLOODING:



- **Spring thaw** – Warmer temperatures and resulting snow melt can produce large amounts of runoff in a short period of time, causing severe spring flooding.
- **Spring rains** – April showers bring several inches of precipitation for hours or even days, oversaturating the ground, overflowing storm drains or causing rivers to spill over.
- **Levees and Dams** – These structures can weaken over time, and can be overtopped during larger flood events.

WINTER FLOODING:



- **Rapid snowmelt** – The sudden thaw of heavy snow pack can lead to flooding. Because the ground is hard and frequently still frozen, water can't be absorbed, causing excess runoff.
- **Coastal flooding** – Winds generated from major winter storms can cause wide-spread tidal flooding and severe beach erosion.
- **Ice jams** – Long cold spells cause the surface of rivers to freeze, leading to ice jams. An ice jam occurs when a rise in water level or a thaw breaks the ice into large chunks, causing major obstructions. A release of the jam results in flooding, causing a quick, significant rise in water levels.

SUMMER FLOODING:

- **Flash flooding** – A rapid flooding of low-lying areas in less than six hours is considered flash flooding.
- **Wildfires** – After the damage caused by wildfires, flooding is the most common and costly aftermath as the ground cannot absorb the rain, making flash floods likely. All surrounding areas of a wildfire are at risk for flooding for up to five years.
- **Tornadoes** – Severe summer tornadoes and thunderstorms carry a flooding risk due to their high winds and heavy precipitation. Flood drains overflow and low-lying areas pose a major risk.

Source: www.FEMA.gov