



Floods K-2

Flood Safety

LESSON PLAN 3

Learn Flood Safety

Young children and their families need to understand the difference between a “watch” and a “warning” to choose the proper steps to stay safe.

Key Terms and Concepts

flash flood WARNING	flood WATCH	stream
flash flood WATCH	safe	unsafe
flood WARNING	storm drain	

Purpose

To help the students and their families be ready when a flood or flash flood WATCH or WARNING has been issued

Objectives

Students will—

- Understand the meaning of “flash” and apply this to the dangers of flash floods.
- Use information from *Flash Flood Safety Tips* as they role-play different scenarios to illustrate what to do in a flash flood.
- Read *Flash Flood Safety Tips* and *Family Flood Safety Plan* with their families to learn safety during a flood WATCH or WARNING. (Home Connection)
- Set up a flash flood drill at school. (Linking Across the Curriculum)
- Use maps of the community to illustrate safe or unsafe areas during a flash flood. (Linking Across the Curriculum)
- Create and perform radio or television public service announcements to illustrate flood safety, using the warning: Stop, Turn around, Look for higher ground.

Activities

“What to Do”

“In a Flash”



Visit the American Red Cross Web site
at www.redcross.org/disaster/masters

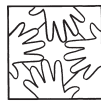


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Materials

Chalkboard and chalk or chart paper and markers



"What to Do"

SET UP 10 minutes CONDUCT 30-45 minutes

Science: Technology and Health

TEACHING NOTE If students have not completed previous lessons in this module and are unfamiliar with the concepts of floods and flash floods, introduce the terms and definitions.

-  Write the terms "flood WATCH" or "flash flood WATCH" and "flood WARNING" or "flash flood WARNING" on the chalkboard and have the students discuss possible meanings and differences in the terms. (A WATCH is issued when conditions are favorable for a flood; a WARNING is issued when a flood can occur at any time.)
- Write the phrase "IF..., THEN..." on the chalkboard and provide students with several scenarios to decide what to do.
 - If you turn on the radio and hear about a flood WATCH but your parents are still in bed, then...
 - If you are near a stream and there is a flash flood WARNING, then...
 - If you are in the car ready to evacuate because of a flood WARNING and see rising water in the streets, then...
 - If you are on the bottom floor of your home and a flood WARNING is announced, then...

Ask the students to explain why each decision will help them stay safe or could put them in an unsafe situation.



Wrap-Up

Challenge the students to consider their own families in these situations. Have them discuss—

- How would you wake your family?
- What is the first thing your family would do?
- Where is the family disaster supplies kit?
- When would you leave the house?
- Where would you go?
- What if you could not drive to higher ground?

TEACHING NOTE Find out about a family disaster supplies kit and evacuation in the *Masters of Disaster* module *Be Disaster Safe*.



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Materials

- *Flash Flood Safety Tips*, 1 copy per student
- *Family Flood Safety Plan*, 1 copy per student (Home Connection)



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"In a Flash"

SET UP 5 minutes CONDUCT 30-45 minutes

Science: Health

1. You have discussed what to do when you are at home when a flood WARNING is issued. Help the students understand what to do if they are caught outside using the safety information found in the Background.
2.  Write the word "flash" on the board. Have the students make a class list of words and phrases that describe the meaning of the word. (Possible answers include—fast, in a flash, bright, quick, blinding and superhero.) Write the term "flash flood" on the board. Help the students apply their "flash" terms to create flash flood safety rules.

Possible answers include—

- Flash floods happen so FAST that you have to run for safety immediately.
 - Flash floods happen IN A FLASH.
 - In a flash flood, you have to be BRIGHT and get to higher ground.
 - In a flash flood, act QUICKLY.
 - Flash floods happen with BLINDING speed.
 - You can be a SUPERHERO in a flash flood.
 - Keep an eye on the weather and listen to weather reports.
 - Watch out for signs of heavy rain.
 - Help others get to high ground immediately.
3. After the students have created their own lists of safety rules, distribute *Flash Flood Safety Tips*. Guide the students as they look at the words and pictures. What new safety rules can they add to their class list?



Wrap-Up

Have the students participate in small-group role plays based on flood safety. Present groups with scenarios and have them act out what they would do.

- You and your family are at home when you hear a flood WARNING on the radio.
- You are outside with friends, playing near a stream, when it starts raining really hard.
- You are packing your car to go fishing, when you hear there is a really big storm heading your way.
- You are at your neighbor's house across the street, when you see water rising in the street.
- You are in your car when you see water rising.



Floods

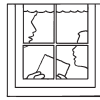
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LESSON PLAN 3

Learn Flood Safety

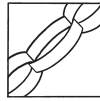


As the students complete the role play and illustrate an understanding of what to do when they hear a flood WARNING, give them a *Masters of Disaster* flood sticker.



Home Connection

Send the students home with *Flash Flood Safety Tips* and *Family Flood Safety Plan* to share with their families. Have them review and complete the activity sheets with their families.



Linking Across the Curriculum

Science: Health; Social Studies: Community

Have a flash flood drill at school.

- Where is “high ground” if you are caught outside?
- Where would you go if waters were rising, and you were inside the school building?

Social Studies: Geography and Community

Using maps of their community, students will pinpoint the places where they might be during a flash flood WARNING—school, home, local parks, ball fields or a neighbor’s home. Have them label the safe and unsafe areas and explain why.

Language Arts: Writing; Fine Arts: Drama

Have the students create and perform radio or television public service announcements using the warning: Stop, Turn around, Look for higher ground. Help them to put the words to their favorite tunes, add flood safety explanations or create brief skits.



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Flash Flood Safety Tips

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Name _____

1. Find out where a flash flood could happen.

Stream, river, canal, ditch, storm drain, flood control channel, canyon, cave.



2. Check the weather before going to these places.

3. Listen to and follow the rules.

If you hear on radio or see on TV that there is a—

- **FLASH FLOOD WATCH**, that means it is raining hard nearby.

Stay indoors.

Change your outdoor plans.

- **FLASH FLOOD WARNING**, that means a flash flood is happening nearby.

Stay indoors.

Tell a grown-up.





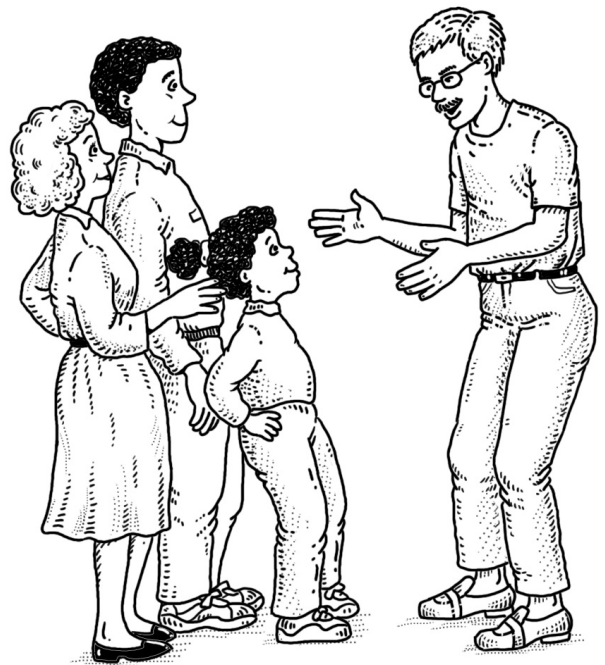
Family Flood Safety Plan

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Name _____

Directions: Help your family stay safe in case of a flood. Answer the following questions together to help plan ahead.

1. Where is your family disaster supplies kit?
2. Where will you go if you have to leave because of a flood?
3. Whom will you call?





Family Flood Safety Plan

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4. What is the safest place in your home in case of a flood?

5. Where is “high ground” in your area?



6. What places should be “off limits” for playing in your neighborhood because of dangers from floods and flash floods?

