

# FLASH FLOOD SAFETY

Flash floods have been the most deadly natural disaster in South Dakota. They are caused by stationary or slow-moving thunderstorms that produce heavy rain over a small area. The Black Hills are especially vulnerable to flash floods, where steep terrain and narrow canyons can funnel heavy rain into small creeks and dry ravines, turning them into raging walls of water. Flash flooding occurs most frequently during May and June.

## Preparing for a Flood

### At home or work:

Determine if you are in a flood-prone area. If you are, know where to go if the water starts to rise. Have an escape route if you have to leave quickly.

Make a safety kit containing: A Flashlight, and extra batteries, battery-powered weather radio and commercial radio, extra food and water, First Aid Supplies

Know how and when to shut off utilities: Electricity, gas, and water.

### When Traveling or outdoors:

Keep track of the counties, towns, major highways, and rivers and creeks along and near your route, so you will know if you are heading toward a flood.

Carry a weather radio in your car or boat or where ever you go.

Check the weather forecast before a trip or outdoor activity.

Choose campsites AWAY from creeks and other low-laying areas.

Be especially cautious at night, when dangerous rising water is more difficult to detect.

## **IF A FLASH FLOOD WARNING IS ISSUED:**

Get to higher ground immediately! Follow evacuation instructions, but don't wait for them if you think you are in danger.

Do not drive across flooded roads or bridges-they may be washed out.

If your vehicle stalls in water, abandon it and get to higher ground. It takes only a foot or two of rapidly moving water to sweep away a car.