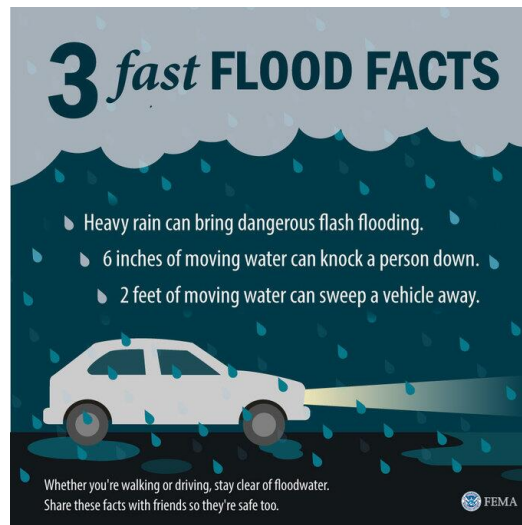


Use this toolkit of key messages and social media content to educate your community about the importance of preparedness. The content in this toolkit is based on the PEMA and FEMA preparedness messaging calendars and is ready for you to use to help make a Ready PA.


This month's topics:	Tools:
Spring Flooding Safety Wildfire Awareness Week Sign Up for the Ready PA Newsletter Ready PA Blog	Social Media Messages Graphics Talking Points

Spring Flooding Safety


Social Media Messages/Graphics: Spring Flooding Safety




Social Media Messages/Graphics: Spring Flooding Safety

 Spring is here, and so is the risk of flooding. Stay ahead of the curve with these essential flood safety tips:


- Keep informed about flood risks in your area.
- Have an emergency kit ready with essentials like food, water, and medications.
- Create a family emergency plan including evacuation routes.
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters. Stay safe and be prepared!
#SpringFlooding #SafetyFirst

 Don't underestimate the power of spring floods! Take proactive measures to protect yourself and your loved ones:

- Elevate electrical appliances and utilities to higher levels.
- Install a sump pump and consider waterproofing your basement.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container.
- Review your insurance coverage for flood protection. Prevention is key! #FloodSafety #PrepareNow

 Is your home ready for spring flooding? Follow these steps to minimize damage:

- Clear gutters and drains of debris.
- Inspect your roof for leaks and make necessary repairs.
- Seal cracks in your foundation.
- Install flood barriers or sandbags if necessary. A little preparation goes a long way!
#ProtectYourHome #FloodPreparedness

 Flood alerts are serious business! Stay informed and take action when necessary:

- Sign up for local emergency alerts.
- Monitor weather forecasts and river levels.
- Follow evacuation orders promptly.
- Check on vulnerable neighbors and assist as needed. We're in this together!
#StayInformed #CommunitySafety

 Keep your family safe during spring flooding:

- Teach children about flood safety and the dangers of floodwaters.
- Designate a meeting place in case you get separated.
- Practice your evacuation plan with family members.
- Have a backup power source and emergency supplies. Prioritize safety above all!
#FamilyFirst #FloodAwareness

Talking Points: Spring Flooding Safety

- Flood Hazard Awareness: **“Turn Around, Don’t Drown!”**
 - Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
 - Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
 - Flooding doesn’t just happen near the ocean or near a river – many urban and suburban areas in our Region are flood prone.
- Evacuation and Shelter Awareness: **“Hide from the wind, run from the water.”**
 - If told to seek shelter or evacuate, do so without delay.
 - Planning is vital to making sure that you can evacuate quickly and safely. Know how you will leave and where you will go if needed.
 - Shelters provide life sustaining services to disaster survivors. Search for open shelters by texting SHELTER and your ZIP code to 43362.
 - If advised to shelter in place, bring your family and pets inside. If possible, go into an interior room with few windows. Pay attention to local media outlets for official news and instructions as they become available.
- Severe Weather Awareness: **“When thunder roars, go indoors.”**
 - At the first sign of thunder in your area, stop all outdoor activity and seek shelter within a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.
 - Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activity.
- 6 inches of moving water can knock an adult off their feet. STAY AWAY from moving water!
- Driving thru 6 inches of standing water can cause vehicles to lose control & stall. Avoid flooded roads.
- As little as 12 inches of moving floodwater can be enough to float and carry away a small vehicle. Turn Around, Don't Drown®.

Flash floods occur within six hours of the beginning of heavy rainfall. Below are some guidelines for keeping safe during a flash flood:

- Go to high ground immediately.
- Get out of areas subject to flooding, such as low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream on foot. Even water only six inches deep, when moving at a high rate of speed, can knock you off your feet.
- Never drive through flooded areas or standing water. Shallow, swiftly flowing water can wash a car from a roadway. Also, the roadbed may not be intact under the water.
- If the vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants.
- Be especially cautious at night when it’s harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Understand the difference between a flash flood watch and a flash flood warning.
- A flash flood watch means that flooding may occur. Residents should stay alert, closely monitor rivers and streams, and be prepared to move to high ground quickly. A flash flood warning means that there is actual flooding. Residents should act at once and move to high ground.

Know Your Flood Terms

Social Media Messages/Graphics: Know Your Flood Terms



Talking Points: Know Your Flood Terms

Flood Warning (Take Action!): A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring. You should take action immediately.

- Find safe shelter right away.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Depending on the type of flooding:
 - Evacuate if told to do so.
 - Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
 - Stay where you are.

Flood Advisory (Be Aware): A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is expected to cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to life safety issues or property damage.

Flood Watch (Be Prepared): A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a flooding in your area. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible. You should prepare to take action should flooding occur.

Flood Watch vs. Flood Warning

- A flood watch means that flooding may occur. Residents should stay alert, closely monitor rivers and streams, and be prepared to move to high ground quickly.
- A flood warning means that there is actual flooding. Residents should act at once and move to high ground.

Wildfire Awareness Week – March 4-8, 2024

Social Media Messages/Graphics: Wildfire Awareness Week – March 4-8, 2024

Low (L)	Favorable conditions. Wildfire ignitions are unlikely. Weather & fuel conditions will lead to slow fire spread, low intensity, and relatively easy control. Outdoor burning is safest.
Moderate (M)	Cautious conditions. Wildfires may be expected. Wildfires will ignite & spread but are usually not difficult to contain. Outdoor burning should be restricted to early morning & late evening while avoiding windy conditions.
High (H)	Dangerous conditions. Wildfires ignite easily. Fires spread rapidly & are difficult to control under windy conditions. Outdoor burning is strongly discouraged.
Very High (VH)	Volatile conditions. Wildfires start easily & spread rapidly with increased intensity. Fires are very difficult to control. Outdoor burning should not occur.
Extreme (E)	Extreme conditions. Wildfires start & spread rapidly. Every fire start has the potential to become a large wildfire. Outdoor burning should not occur.



[Download graphic](#)

Stay Informed:

🔥 Wildfires can happen anywhere, anytime. Stay informed about the risk in your area by following local news updates and official wildfire alerts. Knowledge is power when it comes to wildfire safety! #StayInformed #WildfireSafety

Preparation is Key:

🏠 Preparation is key for wildfire season! Take steps to protect your home and family by creating a defensible space, trimming trees, and having an evacuation plan ready. Let's be proactive in safeguarding our communities! #PreparationIsKey #WildfirePrevention

Know the Risks:

🔥 Understand the factors that contribute to wildfires – dry conditions, high winds, and human activity. Stay vigilant during times of increased fire danger. Awareness is the first step toward prevention! #KnowTheRisks #FireSafety

Report Suspicious Activity:

👂 If you see something, say something! Report any suspicious or potentially dangerous behavior that could lead to wildfires, such as illegal burning or fireworks. Let's work together to keep our communities safe! #SeeSomethingSaySomething #ReportIt

Practice Fire Safety:

🔥 Practice fire safety at all times! Never leave a campfire unattended, properly extinguish cigarettes, and use caution when operating outdoor equipment. Every precaution counts in preventing wildfires! #FireSafety #PreventWildfires

Community Preparedness:

👥 Work together with your neighbors and community to increase wildfire preparedness. Organize neighborhood clean-up events and share resources for fire prevention and safety. Together, we're stronger! #CommunityPreparedness #Teamwork

Emergency Preparedness:

🚒 Be prepared for emergencies! Have an emergency kit stocked with essentials such as food, water, medication, and important documents. Stay informed about evacuation routes and emergency shelters in your area. Preparation saves lives! #EmergencyPreparedness #BeReady

Stay Connected:

📱 Stay connected with local fire departments, emergency management agencies, and wildfire prevention organizations on social media. Get updates and tips on wildfire preparedness and safety to keep yourself and your community informed! #StayConnected #WildfireAwareness

Spread Awareness:

🌟 Spread wildfire prevention tips and resources with your friends, family, and followers. Together, we can help prevent wildfires and protect our communities. Sharing knowledge is key to building a safer future! #SpreadAwareness #WildfirePrevention

Gratitude to First Responders:

🙏 Let's take a moment to express gratitude for the brave firefighters and emergency responders who put their lives on the line to protect our communities from wildfires. Their dedication and sacrifice are truly commendable! #Gratitude #FirstResponders

Talking Points: Wildfire Awareness Week – March 4-8, 2024

The greatest danger of wildfires in Pennsylvania occurs during the spring months of March, April, and May, and the autumn months of October and November.

In Pennsylvania, 99 percent of all wildfires are caused by people.

Certain conditions are necessary for a wildfire to occur:

- An available fuel source, such as dried grass or leaves
- Dry conditions, including low relative humidity
- An ignition source -- some way for the fire to start
- The first two factors occur most frequently in Pennsylvania during spring and autumn.

As the spring sun climbs higher in the sky, days become longer and warmer.

The trees are bare during this time, allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor, warming the ground, and drying surface fuels.

Coupled with strong and dry spring winds, this leads to a tremendous amount of combustible fuels.

During autumn, leaves turn color and begin to fall, accumulating in a deep, fluffy layer that creates a fire hazard.

The third factor, an ignition source, also frequently occurs during these periods.

Wildfire Prevention

- Debris burning is the most common cause of wildfires in Pennsylvania.
- Check with your township for burn bans and local ordinances on debris burning.
- Wildfire prevention is a message brought to people across the country by the well-known figure, Smokey Bear.
- Detailed information about wildfire prevention as well as materials for kids and educators is on the [Smokey Bear website](#).

Sign Up for the Ready PA Newsletter

We know: Your email is full of junk. Ours, too. 📧 😓 🧑🏻
But we have a monthly newsletter. And it has actually helpful info to keep you safe.
We know, we know. Everyone says their emails are different.
Tell you what: Browse here, then subscribe if you like what you see: bit.ly/ready-newsletter.



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READY PA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is designed for all citizens and includes information about each of the monthly preparedness topics.

- When you receive the electronic copy, forward it to community groups, personal care homes, hospitals and schools, and more. You can encourage partners to [sign up here](#).
- Make the newsletter available on your website and promote it and its content via social media posts and more.
- Include a link to the most recent newsletter, which can be found on the [Ready PA website](#).

Ready PA Logo

www.ready.pa.gov



Logo

Your website and logo go here.

Ready PA Tip Sheet

Share the link to the March Tip Sheet in your communications:

Before a Flood – Make a Plan Tip Sheet

https://www.ready.pa.gov/BeInformed/ReadyPA_Newsletter/Documents/Before-A-Flood-Make-A-Plan-Tip-Sheet.pdf