



What is Flooding?

Simply it means that there is a temporary overflow of water on land that is normally dry. Flood waters are very strong. Flood waters can also carry a lot debris that can cause severe injuries to people who are in flooded waters. Flooded waters can knock you down and even cause your vehicle to be swept away.



When does it occur?

In Fiji, floods can happen during natural disasters such as cyclones, and during periods of heavy rain. Fiji also has a have a wet season from November to April.



Where?

It can happen anywhere, but is more common in low lying areas, coastal areas or areas near water bodies (rivers, streams, culverts, drains, dams..etc)



What are the risks during floods?

1. Death
2. Drowning
3. Injury
4. Loss of property
5. Loss of loved ones

What should you do?

1. Prepare Your Home
2. Prepare an emergency kit with food and water, flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
3. Move important items to the highest possible floor to protect them from flood damage.
4. Move animals and livestock to higher ground
5. Get to higher ground early or designated evacuation centres
6. Ensure that food and clean water rations are stored safely
7. Cook food thoroughly and boil all water before consuming these
8. Watch out for hidden dangers (Flooded roads, electrical wires, broken trees and structures)
9. Keep dry and warm
10. Wear enclosed footwear to protect from injury and infection

Know the risk.

1. **Never** underestimate the strength of the water
2. Listen to the latest weather updates and emergency instructions and keep safe

1. **Don't walk or swim through flooded waters**
2. **Don't drive through flood waters.**
3. **Don't drive over bridges that are flooded. Floodwaters can make the bridge unstable and also stop you from seeing the bridge itself and this can lead to drowning in these areas.**
4. **Don't play in flooded waters.**
5. **Don't fish in flooded waters.**

Don't risk your life during floods!

For more information please visit the Ministry and Medical Services website

<http://www.health.gov.fj>

