

## Be Informed About Arizona's Hazards

The “dry” heat is probably the most talked about aspect of Arizona weather, but it’s flooding that is the big troublemaker in the state and the most common disaster nationwide.

Arizona experiences several types of emergencies and disasters. The bottom line is that whatever the hazard, it’s best to be informed.

Summer [monsoon](#) storms – a phenomenon occurring primarily in July, August and September – are frequently responsible for flash floods in normally dry channels, urban washes and remote slot canyons. Be alert to the different flood warnings and forecasts issued by the [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#) that might affect your area.

The monsoon storms go hand in hand with [dust storms](#) brought by severe prevailing winds. Driving in dust storms should be avoided, but there are steps to take in dust and rain storms to reduce the chance of an accident.

The summer also brings about high temperatures in most parts of the state. Extreme heat can result in dangerous health hazards for even the healthiest of people, particularly children, the elderly, the indigent and pets.

In the winter, heavy snowfall can cripple a mountain area, hamper response to emergencies, and strand motorists. Being stuck in a home that is ill-prepared for harsh winter conditions can also be dangerous.

The onset of cooler fall temperatures is a good time to prepare (or weatherize) your car for the [winter driving](#) season and brush up on winter driving skills. Maintaining a disaster preparedness kit and checking your home for winter readiness should be a priority before severe weather arrives.

Different disasters call for different responses. For example, an influenza outbreak would entail temporary changes in everyday business while a nuclear threat requires immediate action.

The affects from human-caused disasters, from hazardous material spills, terrorist activities and wildfires can be minimized by taking preparedness measures. Making a plan, building a kit, practicing that plan and staying informed are the best weapons against any disaster.

## Resources

- [Arizona Emergency Information Network \(AzEIN\)](#)
- [Arizona Department of Health Services / Bureau of Public Health Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Arizona Department of Transportation \(ADOT\)](#)
- [just in case arizona](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#)
- [Ready America](#)