

## Flood Warnings

Flooding in St. Pete Beach, local drainage problems, and sewer backup can come with little warning. If weather conditions look like flooding, the National Weather Service issues two types of flood notices:

**Flood watch:** flooding is possible within the area described by the notice.

**Flood warning:** flooding is imminent or occurring.

To stay abreast of weather warnings, listen to NOAA Weather Radio. This is a radio station operated by the Weather Service. You can buy a special battery-operated weather radio at a local electronics store for \$20–\$35. It issues an alert signal if a watch or warning is being issued. (see also [www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/?n=nwr](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/?n=nwr)).

If you hear a siren or a severe weather watch or warning, check the latest instructions on local radio and TV stations. Once the emergency management agencies are sure that the danger has passed, they will issue an “all clear” message. Remember: You may not get a flash flood warning before flooding actually begins. Play it safe in stormy weather.

## During a Flood - What You Should Do

Once you hear a flood watch or warning, you should take the following steps:

1. If the radio, television, or emergency vehicle announced what to do, **follow those instructions**.
2. If you suspect you are subject to **deep flooding** that will get inside your house:
  - a. Turn off the electricity and gas
  - b. Lock your doors and evacuate



3. While on the road, be sure to avoid flooded streets. **Obey barricades** around dangerous areas. A car will float in less than 2 feet of moving water and can be swept downstream into deeper waters. This is one reason floods kill more people trapped in vehicles than anywhere else.
4. **If the streets are underwater, you are better off staying in your house.**

5. If you don't have a place on high ground where you can stay, listen to the radio or TV for information on public shelters.