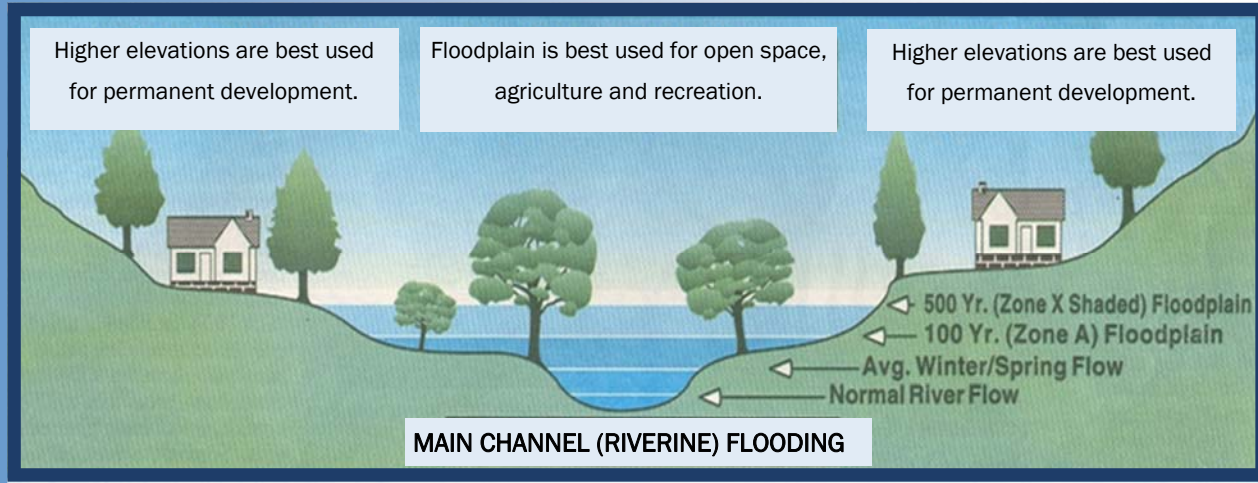


# Nevada Has Three Types of Dangerous Floods

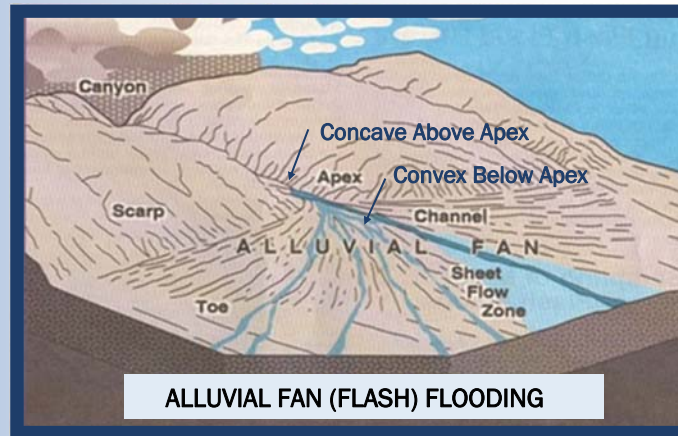
Do you live in a valley or close to a river? If so, at some time you may experience main channel flooding.

**Main channel (riverine) flooding** occurs in valley floors during large winter storms, when prolonged heavy rain falls on mountain snowpack. An example is the New Year's flood of 1997, which caused over \$200 million in damages in the Truckee, Carson and Walker River watersheds.



Do you live in a mountainous area or in the foothills? If so, at some time you may experience alluvial fan or debris flow flooding.

**Alluvial fan flooding** occurs along small creeks and usually dry “washes” that emerge from the bottom of mountain canyons. Alluvial fans are susceptible to violent flash floods shortly after intense summer thundershowers. These types of floods are unpredictable. During a flash flood, shallow channels can become clogged with rocks and sediment, creating uncertainty about where the rising water will travel. Nearly all neighborhoods on fans are in a potential flood path.



**Debris flows** are fast-moving slurries similar to wet concrete carrying rocks and boulders. They originate on steep slopes during intense rainfall and can start like a flash flood. They then flow rapidly down canyons, causing catastrophic damage to houses and businesses below.

# Nevada Floods. Are You Prepared?



January 1997 flooding in downtown Reno, Nevada. Photo by Marilyn Newton, Reno Gazette-Journal.

In Nevada, we have both flash floods and river floods even though most of us live in a desert environment. Whether you live near the foot of a mountain canyon, a dry wash, or on the floor of a broad river valley, you should make preparations ahead of time for damaging flood events. A team of local government officials and educators have worked with the Nevada Division of Water Resources to create an award-winning new website, <http://www.NevadaFloods.org>. *Are you prepared?*

Find out how to:

- Know Your Risk
- Be Prepared
- Stay Safe During a Flood
- Create a Survival Kit

Learn more about this important issue at:

[www.NevadaFloods.org](http://www.NevadaFloods.org)



# Nevada Floods. Are You Prepared?

## KNOW YOUR RISK

- Find out if you live in a flood zone by clicking on “Know Your Risk” at [www.NevadaFloods.org](http://www.NevadaFloods.org).

### Did You Know?

- Flooding kills more people than any other natural disaster.
- One (1) inch of flood water indoors can cause \$10,000 of damage.
- The best, most cost-effective way to prevent future flood damage and deaths is to keep natural floodplains open and free of development.

## Important Definitions for Monitoring Flood Conditions

- **WARNING:** Hazardous life, property or commerce-threatening conditions are imminent or occurring. Take action now.
- **WATCH:** There is the potential for hazardous conditions. Prepare now.
- **ADVISORY:** Low impact and not property or life threatening. Flood-prone areas should take notice.

## BE PREPARED

### Homeowner’s Insurance Does NOT Cover Floods

- Purchase flood insurance if you live in a flood-prone area.
- To find out more about the National Flood Insurance Program, go to [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).



Flooding of homes in Gardnerville, Nevada, 1997. Photo by Marilyn Newton, Reno Gazette-Journal.

- Know your risk and surroundings in low-lying areas or near waterways.
- Have a plan and know where to evacuate. Establish a meeting place.
- Have an emergency kit.
- Keep storm drains and culverts clear.

## DURING A FLOOD

- Stay away from waterways and canyons, and monitor children.
- Do not drive through water! It may be deeper or flowing faster than it appears.

### Turn Around Don’t Drown®

- Monitor weather forecasts by keeping a battery-powered NOAA Weather radio or mobile device.
- Turn off electric power at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if advised to do so. Don’t touch electrical appliances that are wet or standing in water.

### Turn Around Don’t Drown®



Car trapped in the Truckee River, Reno, Nevada during January 1997 flood. Photo by Marilyn Newton, Reno Gazette-Journal.



Flooded home in Lyon County, Nevada, 2005. Photo by USGS

## GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Help educate others in your community:

- Organize family-friendly flood awareness activities for emergency preparedness events.
- Write a Flood Awareness Proclamation for your local government.
- Coordinate flood education in the classroom.

Resources and ideas are available at the “Get Involved” tab at: [www.NevadaFloods.org](http://www.NevadaFloods.org).