



Floods can happen with heavy rainfall, but that's not the only cause. Snowmelt, ice jams, dam and levee failure, burn scars, storm surge, and tides can all cause floods.

Flash Floods are when a flood occurs very suddenly.

Sunny Day Floods can occur even when it is not raining.



Historic Floods

The Great Flood of 1889

On May 31st a dam failed upstream of Johnstown, Pennsylvania after several days of heavy rain.. Water from the dam rushed into town and over 2,000 people died.



NWS Photo Archive

1976 Big Thompson Canyon, Colorado

On July 31st 12 inches of rain fell high in the canyon in just 4 hours. Flash flooding occurred, including downstream where little rain fell. Over 800 people were evacuated by helicopter and 143 people died.



CSU Water Resource Archive

FLOOD WARNING

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is **happening** or will happen soon. Some roads will be **flooded**.

Move to higher ground.

Never drive through flooded roads.

take action.

FLOOD WATCH

A Flood Watch is issued when flooding is possible.

Stay tuned to radio/TV, follow **weather.gov** and be ready to seek higher ground.

Learn more at **weather.gov/flood**.

be prepared.



The **National Weather Service** issues flood watches and warnings to help protect lives and property. Warnings can alert cell phones in an area of flooding so that people can protect themselves and their property.



NOAA



Drought is a period of abnormally low water resources because of deficient precipitation. Droughts cause many problems, such as stress on agriculture, limited water supply for hydroelectric power and communities, decreased flow in rivers, and increased risk of fires.

Widespread 20th Century Droughts

1930s Dust Bowl Parts of the US (Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas) were in a drought for most of the 1930s. Effects of the drought were made worse by agricultural practices in the 1920s that led to poor soil.

1950s Texas Between 1950 and 1957 almost all of Texas was declared a federal disaster area due to drought.

The Drought Monitor is put together by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska, the US Department of Agriculture and NOAA. Drought classification is determined by precipitation, vegetation health, soil moisture and snowpack.

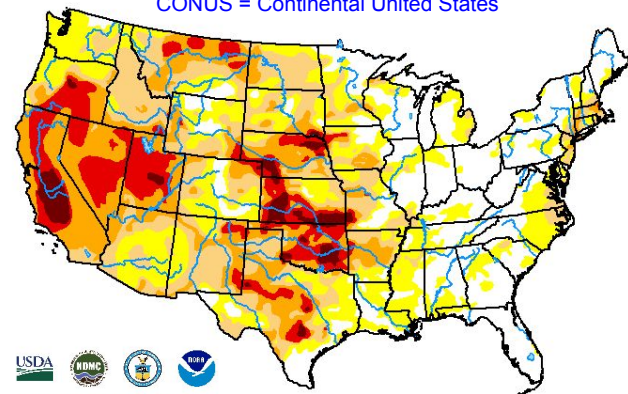
| Category | Description | Possible Impacts |
|----------|---------------------|--|
| D0 | Abnormally Dry | Going into drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures Coming out of drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some lingering water deficits pastures or crops not fully recovered |
| D1 | Moderate Drought | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some damage to crops, pastures Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent Voluntary water-use restrictions requested |
| D2 | Severe Drought | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop or pasture losses likely Water shortages common Water restrictions imposed |
| D3 | Extreme Drought | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major crop/pasture losses Widespread water shortages or restrictions |
| D4 | Exceptional Drought | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies |

The US Drought Monitor creates maps of drought conditions in the United States every week.

U.S. Drought Monitor
CONUS

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CONUS = Continental United States



USDA WDMC NOAA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu