



Before During & After

The Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (OHSEM) Newsletter

Significant Dates

- June 15th: Monsoon Season officially begins
- July 5th: Independence Day Holiday (observed)

COVID-19 Links

Maricopa County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard and Vaccine Information Site

AZDHS COVID-19 Data Dashboard

CDC COVID-19 Website

Emergency Management Links

OHSEM Website

Maricopa County WebEOC

COOP Plans (BOLDplanning)

Phoenix NOAA/NWS Website

Arizona Emergency Information Network (AZEIN)

Summer Safety Focus: Floods & Flash Flooding

Although persistent drought conditions and record-breaking heat waves may have Phoenicians clamoring for rain, it is important to remember that too much rain, even for a short duration, can present deadly and destructive conditions. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reports that **flooding is the most frequent severe weather threat and the costliest natural disaster in the nation.** Phoenix is no stranger to destructive flooding events, as illustrated by the picture of the 2014 event that caused more than \$18 million of damages to the city.



Photo credit: David Kadlubowski

In the valley, floods and flash floods are triggered by three types of seasonal atmospheric events: tropical storm remnants, monsoon season storms, and winter rains. As June 15th marks the official start to monsoon season, the focus of this month's article will be the unique threats the **annual monsoon season storms** poses to Phoenix.



Photo credit: Chirag A. Patel

During monsoon season, the state experiences a large influx of humid subtropical air that provides optimal conditions for solar heating to trigger afternoon and evening thunderstorms. These thunderstorms can produce extremely intense, short duration bursts of rainfall that can translate into runoff referred to as a flash flood. Flashfloods tend to be very localized and cause significant flooding of local water courses. (continued next page)

Regional/National Resources

Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM)

As the largest city in the county, we work closely with MCDEM to ensure all our emergency management efforts are aligned. Click their title to find out more about MCDEM and their services.

Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA)

DEMA consists of the Arizona National Guard, the Division of Emergency Management and the Division of Administrative Services. Click their title to find out more about their capabilities and the resources they can provide.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA provides emergency management guidance and support at the national level. Their website contains an abundance of information on nearly everything you may want to know about emergency management.

Contact Us

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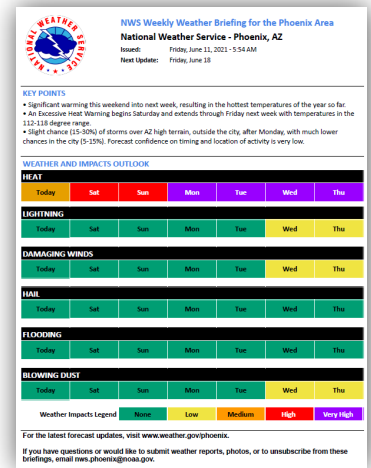
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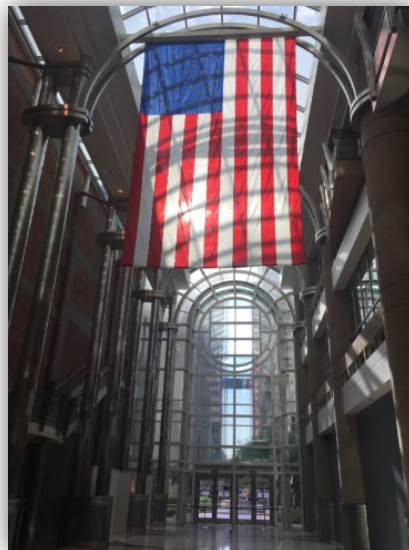
The best way to be prepared for a flood or flash flooding event is to pay close attention to weather notifications. The OHSEM Duty Officer shares **weekly weather updates** generated by the National Weather Services (NWS) that provide an overview of upcoming weather patterns, including an explanation of the impacts they may have locally.

Since flash floods often occur with little to no warning, the Duty Officer may also issue an emergency notification through the city's **Emergency/Event Notification System (ENS)** to inform city employees of any hazardous conditions that are present. This opt-in service requires employees to be registered with the system in order to receive notifications.

Follow the link to find out more about the ENS program and how to register for the service: [City of Phoenix Event Notification System \(Member Portal: FAQ\)](#)



The Heart of Continuity Planning: Essential Functions



Every day, it takes the coordinated efforts of over 30 city departments to deliver a wide range of services to the growing number of residents and businesses who call Phoenix home. These services are normally provided with little to no interruption, but what would happen if something, or someone, unexpectedly disrupted the normal operations of one or more of the City Departments? Would the affected departments be able to continue providing the services that local communities and business rely on? Additionally, how would these departments prioritize the services they provide in the face of competing resources?

The answers to these questions can be found in the departmental Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans. More specifically, these questions shed light on the central focus of a COOP plan, which are the

department's **Essential Functions (EFs)**. As City Hall is the central hub for coordinating the city's civic activities, the EFs of a COOP plan help departments prioritize activities and identify the necessary people, resources, and facilities needed to carry out those activities.

When trying to identify a department's EFs it might help to consider the following definitions and principles:

- FEMA defines EFs as "critical activities an organization performs that are directly related to accomplish the mission of the organization"
- EFs are a limited set of organizational functions that should be continued throughout, or resumed rapidly after, a disruption of activities
- EFs meet the following criteria - they are urgent, important, cannot be delayed, and something no other department does

For more assistance in identifying departmental EFs or if you need any help with updating departmental COOP plans, please contact the OHSEM office or reach out to a COOP administrator.