

**PROVIDER NOTICE:**  
**Provider Manual Revision**

*Maricopa County Regional Behavioral Health Authority  
Magellan Health Services of Arizona, Inc.*

## **Provider Notice**

### **Flash Flood Warning for Southwest Maricopa County**

**Date: January 21, 2010**

**Notice number: 115**

In accordance with ADHS/DBHS guidelines, providers are required to comply with the updated policies and procedures presented in provider notices. Where applicable, this information is incorporated into the ADHS/DBHS Provider Manual, Magellan Health Services of Arizona Edition. The full provider manual and provider notices are available at the [For Providers](#) area of Magellan's Web site, [www.MagellanofAZ.com](http://www.MagellanofAZ.com).

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The Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) has notified Magellan Health Services of the National Weather Service's (NWS) **issuance of a Flash Flood Warning for Maricopa County until 7:45 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010.** Click [HERE](#) to view the latest NWS warnings, watches and advisories.

A flash flood is a sudden inundation of water in low-lying areas, usually brought on by heavy rain or a dam break. When the ground becomes so saturated with water that more cannot be absorbed, the overflow begins to rush downhill, sweeping away whatever is in its path. **The sudden nature of the flood makes it extremely dangerous.**

Note: FLASH FLOODS ARE THE #1 CAUSE OF WEATHER-RELATED DEATHS IN THE US.

The only way to prepare for a flash flood is to be aware of the weather and pay attention when there is exceptionally heavy rainfall. Listen to weather reports for flood information. Weather forecasters may declare a **flash flood watch** when there is a possibility that rain will cause flooding. If some flooding has begun to occur, a **flash flood advisory** will be declared. When the flooding turns dangerous, a **flash flood warning** is declared. Flash flooding usually occurs around streams, gullies and ditches.

In response to the notice, please have outreach staff assist homeless recipients in obtaining shelter. In addition, please implement the following activities as needed:

**Outdoors:**

- Get to higher ground as quickly as possible
- Leave places likely to flood (e.g., canyons, ditches, dry stream beds) as quickly as possible

- Do NOT try to cross flood water; it is flowing more quickly than you think

**In a car:**

- Turn around and drive away from the flood area. DO NOT try to drive through the flooding area. Roads under the water could be washed out. A car that stalls in just two feet of water can be washed away. Nearly one-half of all flash flood fatalities occur in the automobile.
- If your car stalls, exit the car immediately and get to higher ground
- Try to be sure that your car has a full fuel tank

**Indoors:**

- Move furniture and valuables to higher floors in your home
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and plastic bottles with clean water
- Bring outdoor furniture inside
- If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible
- Keep important documents, insurance policies and other valuables in a safe deposit box

It is always wise to have a family disaster plan with emergency phone numbers posted near your phone. Make sure each family member knows the address and phone number of two safe havens: a place outside the home and a place outside the neighborhood, in case you can't return to your home right away. Have an out-of-state contact person, in the event the family gets separated.

Keep a family disaster kit prepared, including:

- first aid kit, including prescription medications
- food and water for 3-7 days (don't forget a can opener!)
- clothing, including rain gear
- battery-operated radio and flashlights, plus extra batteries (NOAA weather radios are best for receiving updates from the national weather service)
- special items for babies and elderly or special-needs members of your family

**After the flood:**

- Throw out any food that has come in contact with flood waters
- Boil drinking water before use. Have water tested for purity before drinking. If you're unsure about the water, call the public health authority.
- Do not visit disaster areas unless you are there to help
- Report broken utility lines to authorities
- Make sure that electrical equipment is dried before restarting service

*If you have questions about this communication, please contact the Mark Kern at (602) 652- 5915 or [MKern@MagellanHealth.com](mailto:MKern@MagellanHealth.com).*

