



Flood Definitions

100-year flood	Has a one percent chance of happening in any given year.
channel	A natural or manmade linear depression or large “ditch” that carries flood waters.
cubic feet per second (CFS)	The rate of discharge representing a volume of one cubic foot passing a given point during one second. Equivalent to 7.48 gallons per second or 448.8 gallons per minute.
culvert	A closed conduit for the passage of surface drainage water under a roadway, railroad or other impediment.
detention basin	A flood control facility consisting of a basin and dam that detains storm water so it can be released in a controlled manner. These basins generally range in size from 15 to 300 acres.
discharge	The volume of water that passes a given point within a given time period.
flash flood watch	A flood is possible in the area. These are only issued by the National Weather Service.
flash flood warning	A flood is already occurring or will occur very soon. These are only issued by the National Weather Service.
flood control facility	A channel, stormdrain or detention basin built to control storm water runoff to reduce the likelihood of property damage and/or loss of lives.
flood hazard area	The area subject to flooding as defined on maps by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
floodplain management	Provides the guidance, conditions and restrictions for development in flood prone areas while protecting the public’s health, safety, welfare and property from danger and damage due to flooding.
Flood Threat Recognition System (FTRS)	A system of approximately 200 rainfall-measuring devices designed to report rainfall quantities to facilitate forecasting flood potential. Some of these sites also collect and report water level, wind speed data, and other weather characteristics.
local drainage	Smaller drainage facilities in neighborhoods that collect flows and route them to the regional system.
master planning	Performing the layout, preliminary design, and estimated cost necessary of 100-year flood control facilities to provide an increased level of flood protection to residents, businesses and tourists.
runoff	Rainwater not absorbed into the ground.
stormdrain	A large, underground pipe that conveys stormwater through developed urban areas.
stormwater pollution	Pollutants (trash, automotive fluids, paint, fertilizers/pesticides, pet waste, etc.) picked up by runoff or excess irrigation from streets, parking lots, driveways and yards and conveyed through the storm drain system untreated to Lake Mead.
wash	A natural stream channel common in the western United States. Washes are normally dry except during rainstorms.