

Flood

Definition

A flood is a body of water overflowing land. Localized flooding can also occur from a burst water pipe and is the most likely, of these two types of flooding, to occur.

Causes

- Nature (heavy rains, thaws, hurricanes, etc.)
- Rising water levels in nearby lakes, streams and rivers
- Leaks in roof
- Leaks in water cooling system
- Use of sprinkler system
- Water used to fight fires
- Plumbing problems
- Overflowing rains
- Dam collapse

Prevention

- Provide plastic equipment covers for the computers and all other electrical equipment.
- Install drains.
- Install water sensors under the raised computer floor pumps.
- Check drains and pumps periodically to ensure they are in working order.
- Maintain list of plumbers, roofing contractors, drainage experts, water sprinkler engineers, etc.
- Provide emergency power and lighting.
- Ensure that no water pipes, other than those for the sprinkler system, are adjacent to computer room.
- Investigate flood insurance.
- Assign priority and responsibility for all items to be moved.

Prevention of Death or Injury

Because of the high voltages in electrical rooms, the risk of electrocution is very high. Make sure that employees are trained to shut off the power upon notification of a flood.

In addition to the obvious danger of drowning, electrical fires can also be a hazard further complicated by the presence of oil and gasoline in the water. Since a flood is often followed by a shortage or contamination of local water supplies, epidemics are also a threat.

Procedures Checklist

- Determine source and cause of water.
- Turn off power.
- Turn on emergency power and lighting.
- Attempt to stop flooding. (Be familiar with the water shut off valve locations.)
- Inform Emergency Response Coordinator.
- Enact evacuation procedures, if necessary.
- Operate pumps.
- Remove priority items from area.
- Cover equipment and records.
- Shut off sprinkler system.
- Call plumbers, roofing contractors, drainage experts, water sprinkler engineers, fire department, etc., as required.
- Check electrical connections before restoring power.