Floodin, it'll get ya!

1 Are you in a Flood Zone?

Most counties have online or in-person databases that will let you know if you are in a zone at risk for flooding.
You can also type in your address and zip code at **https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home**. This will bring up a map of your area and any portions at risk of flooding. Ps. remember to read the map key.

2 Preparing for Floods

Practice an escape plan, this includes having emergency kits ready to go in case of flood. These kits should contain bottled water, food, First aid kits, a battery-powered radio, and extra medications.
Store important documents such as your birth certificate in a safe location such as a safety deposit box.
Sign up for your local flood warning system.

3 How to survive a flood

Do not attempt to drive through or ford floodwaters. Turn around and find another route. If you cannot leave the flood area move to the highest ground you can and make yourself visible so emergency responders can see you.
Do not wait in attics or enclosed areas with only one exit as you can easily become trapped by rising waters.

4 Clean Up

Once the flood is past be careful when entering flooded areas as there can be many hazards. Downed powerlines, wild animals, and contamination can all make reentering your home challenging so be aware of your surroundings. Wearing heavy boots and thick gloves when cleaning debris can help mitigate some of the dangers.

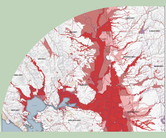
5 What is being done?

Fema is in the process of modernizing its online resources so people can more easily asses their flood risk.
New types of dikes are being proposed to more effectively manage rivers.

6 What else can we do?

We need to acknowledge the inherent risks of building along rivers, in delta's and runoffs and seriously consider whether new construction in at-risk regions is advisable.
We must address the possible doom that is climate change as it will exacerbate flooding globally which will affect everyone regardless of race, class or creed.

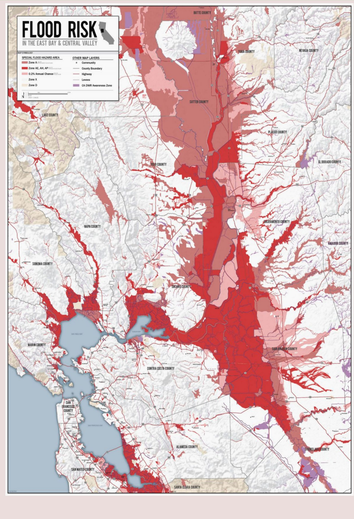
7 About California

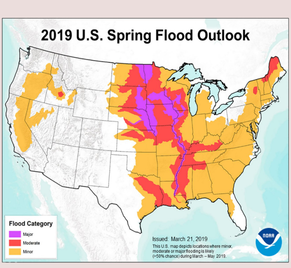


With so many major fires recently it is easy to forget that California has a high propensity to flood.
Much of the state's agriculture is done in areas of the delta that has been drained and cleared but are still at risk.
There is also the fact that pretty much the entire central valley is at risk of flooding.

8 A Final Point

One last thing, the Fema flood zone site that I referenced above has some serious issues that need addressing. The site is slow, and really heady on processing as it uses full-blown GIS mapping which is rather ineffective in this case. Its key is also rather obtuse. While this may be normal geographic practice this prevents the maps from being easily understood by the intended audience the public. This system must be simplified and streamlined.





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