

Unit 4



Agent Name _____

(for Water Agents of the W.B.I.)

Flood Forces

Critical Decision Scenarios



Locomotive engine caught in flood waters during the flood of 1894 in Boulder. Photo courtesy of Boulder Public Library.

DIRECTIONS

Your mission, Water Agents, is to strategize the best course of action in the following

Scenario 1

You and your family have gone camping for the weekend. As you finish dinner, you hear thunder and heavy rain starts falling. You rush to your tent to keep dry. Your mom keeps looking out of the tent to look at the stream: the level seems to be rising quickly. You all hear a loud rushing sound upstream. She scans the area, sees a path heading up the nearby hill, and looks at the car parked close by. She says, "Oh no, I think there may be a flash flood coming!" The two books you just bought are somewhere among your clothes in the tent. What do you do?

Scenario 2

You are driving back from swimming practice with your dad and a friend. It has been raining steadily for a few days. You drop your friend off. As you head home, you see water covering the road just down the hill from your friend's house. The water doesn't look that deep. The other way home would take a lot longer. What do you do?

Scenario 3

There have been heavy afternoon thunderstorms for days. Steady rain pelts against the windows. Local areas have been flooded. Your parents have been worried about your house, because you're in the 100-year flood plain. You're hungry but realize there aren't any more pretzels upstairs. You go down to the pantry in your basement and see that there IS water in your basement. The pretzel bags, which were on the floor of your basement, are now floating in a couple of inches of water. They're in closed packages. What do you do?

Scenario 4

You're walking home from school. The sun is out and the temperature has risen after days of snow. As you travel along, you see what looks like a creek in front of you coming down the hill, across the street, and continuing down the hill. There are pieces of wood and leaves floating down the water. There's even a lawn chair floating in the water. All the snowmelt must have created a lot of runoff from the surrounding hills and mountains. The water level is just above your ankles; it doesn't look like it's going to get deeper and you definitely need to cross it to get home. What do you do?

Scenario 5

It has been raining in the mountains, but sunny down in town. Your sister slept over at a friend's house last night and she's not home yet. You and your parents are inside listening to the radio when you hear that there is a Flood Warning for your community. It is still sunny outside so... What do you do?

Flood Forces

WBI Agent Action Assessment

Directions

Circle T (true) or F (false) for each sentence below.

- T F 1. When it rains heavily, there is a possibility for flooding to occur.
- T F 2. Floods can cause a lot of dangerous debris to float around.
- T F 3. Floods only occur in the wilderness.
- T F 4. As long as the water doesn't look too deep, it is safe to walk or wade across flooded water.
- T F 5. People should drive as quickly as possible through a flooded road, so as not to be washed downstream.
- T F 6. In the event of a flood, it is important to turn off both the electricity and gas in your home.
- T F 7. A flood plain is the area in which flood waters are likely to occur during a flood.
- T F 8. As long as things are in closed containers, it is safe to eat or drink things found in flood water.
- T F 9. A Flood Warning means you should evacuate the area immediately.
- T F 10. The National Weather Service will always let you know if a flood is coming.



"Looking East From
8th Street"

Photograph of railroad tracks submerged in flood waters, taken during the 1894 Boulder Flood.

Printed here courtesy of Boulder Public Public Library