

The NOAA Weather Ranger is an educational and outreach product of the Southeast River Forecast Center in Peachtree City, Georgia. The series will be updated as often as possible to benefit public education in weather safety.

For more information, visit our web page  
**[www.weather.gov/serfc/WeatherRanger](http://www.weather.gov/serfc/WeatherRanger)**

**also**  
**[www.srh.noaa.gov](http://www.srh.noaa.gov)**  
**[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)**

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service  
Southeast River Forecast Center**



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WEATHER RANGER



# ***Coloring Book & Action Guide***

# NOAA **WEATHER RANGER**



IN AN INSTANT, THE WEATHER CAN TURN DEADLY. WHEN IT DOES, YOU SHOULD FIND COMFORT IN KNOWING THERE IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT YOU FROM WEATHER'S DARKEST DANGERS. THESE PEOPLE WAGE A DAILY WAR AGAINST IGNORANCE, APATHY, FEAR, AND A BLATANT DISREGARD FOR WEATHER'S MOST DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES. DON'T LET YOUR SIMPLE MISTAKES BECOME DISASTERS AND YOUR LIFE A TRAGIC HEADLINE IN TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO HELP YOU **STAY ALIVE!**

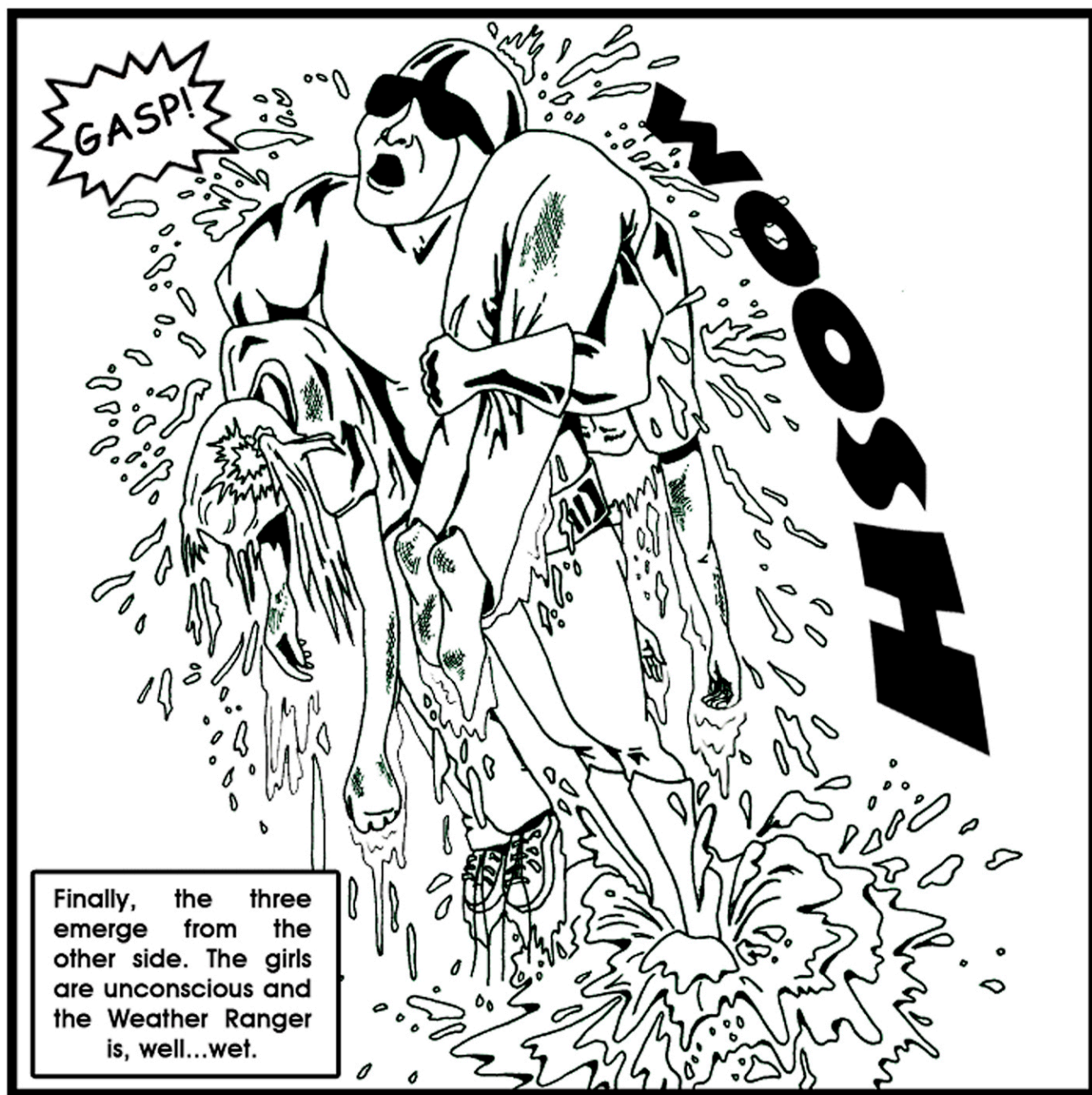
OUR STORY BEGINS LIKE ANY GOOD STORY SHOULD...  
IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## Question:

What do these words mean?

Ignorance  
Apathy  
Consequences  
Blatant



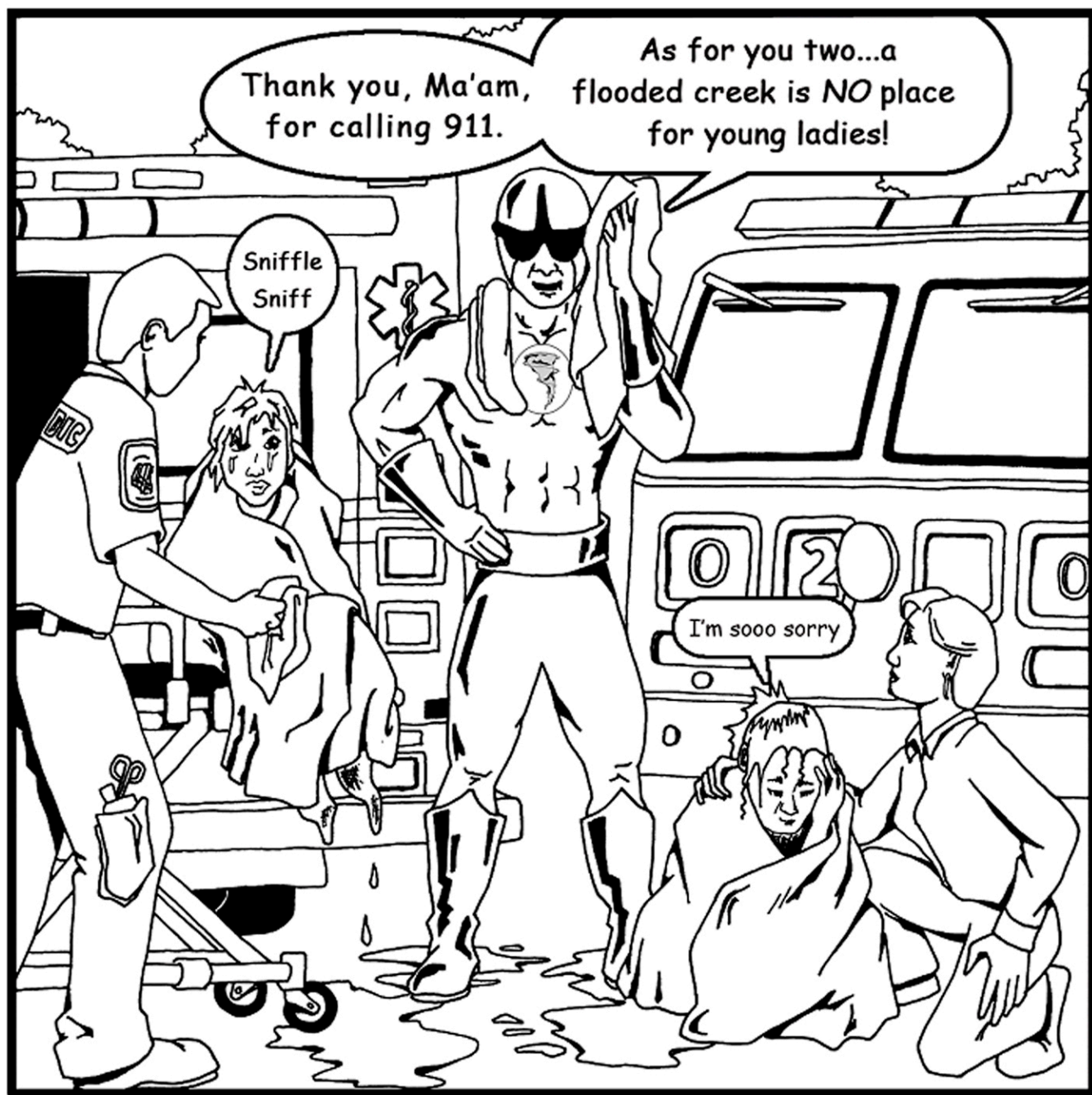


**Answer:**

The average person can hold his or her breath for one to three minutes. Some people can hold their breath longer, but we suggest you not try to do that. David Blaine holds the world record for holding his breath underwater. He held it for 17 minutes, 4 seconds! Please don't try that at home...or anywhere else!

Being unconscious is when a person is unable to respond to people and activities. Often, this is called a coma. It generally occurs when your brain is starved of oxygen, such as when you have been underwater and holding your breath too long.

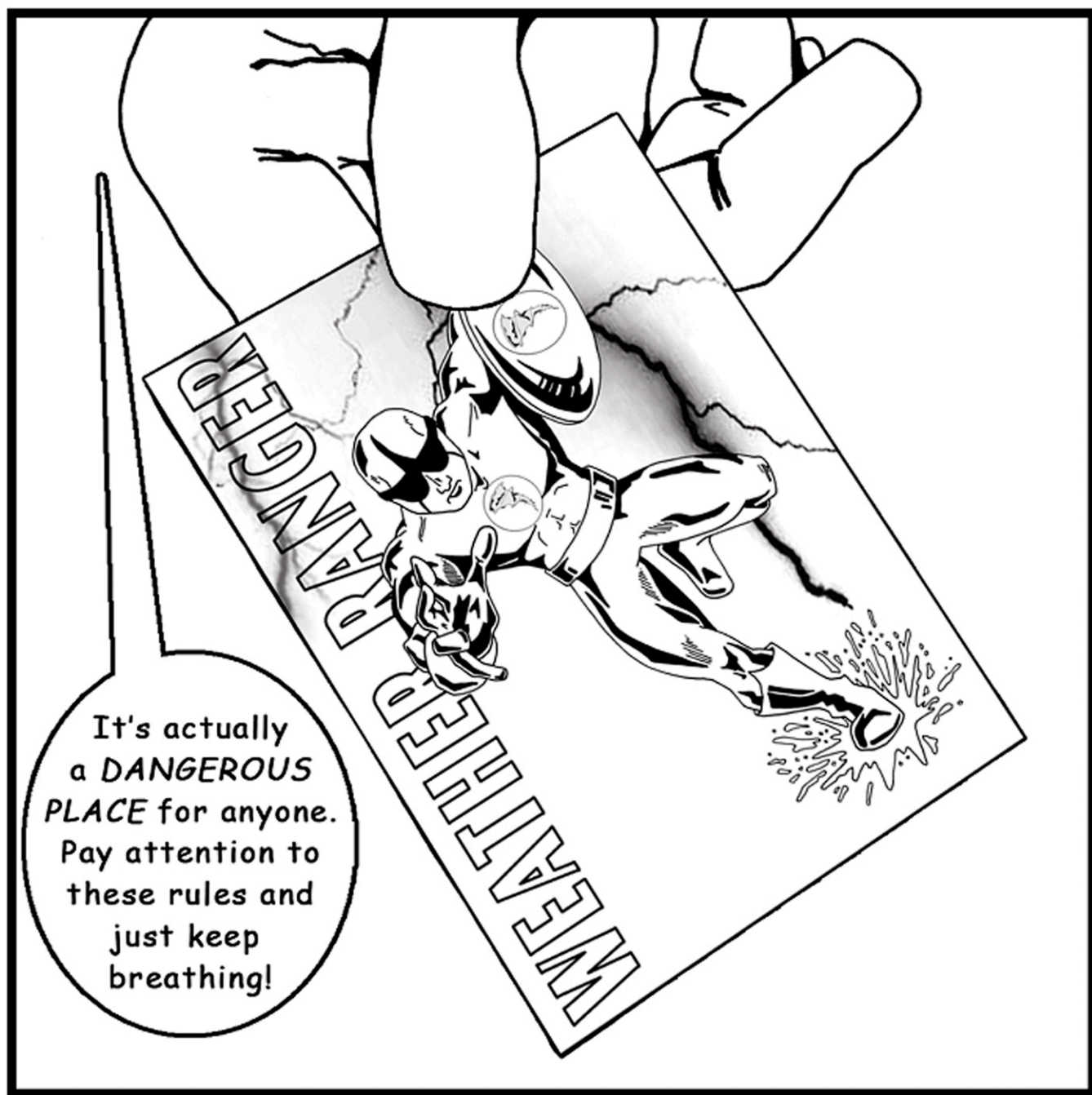




**Question:**

Name 3 things that could happen to cause flooding to occur.

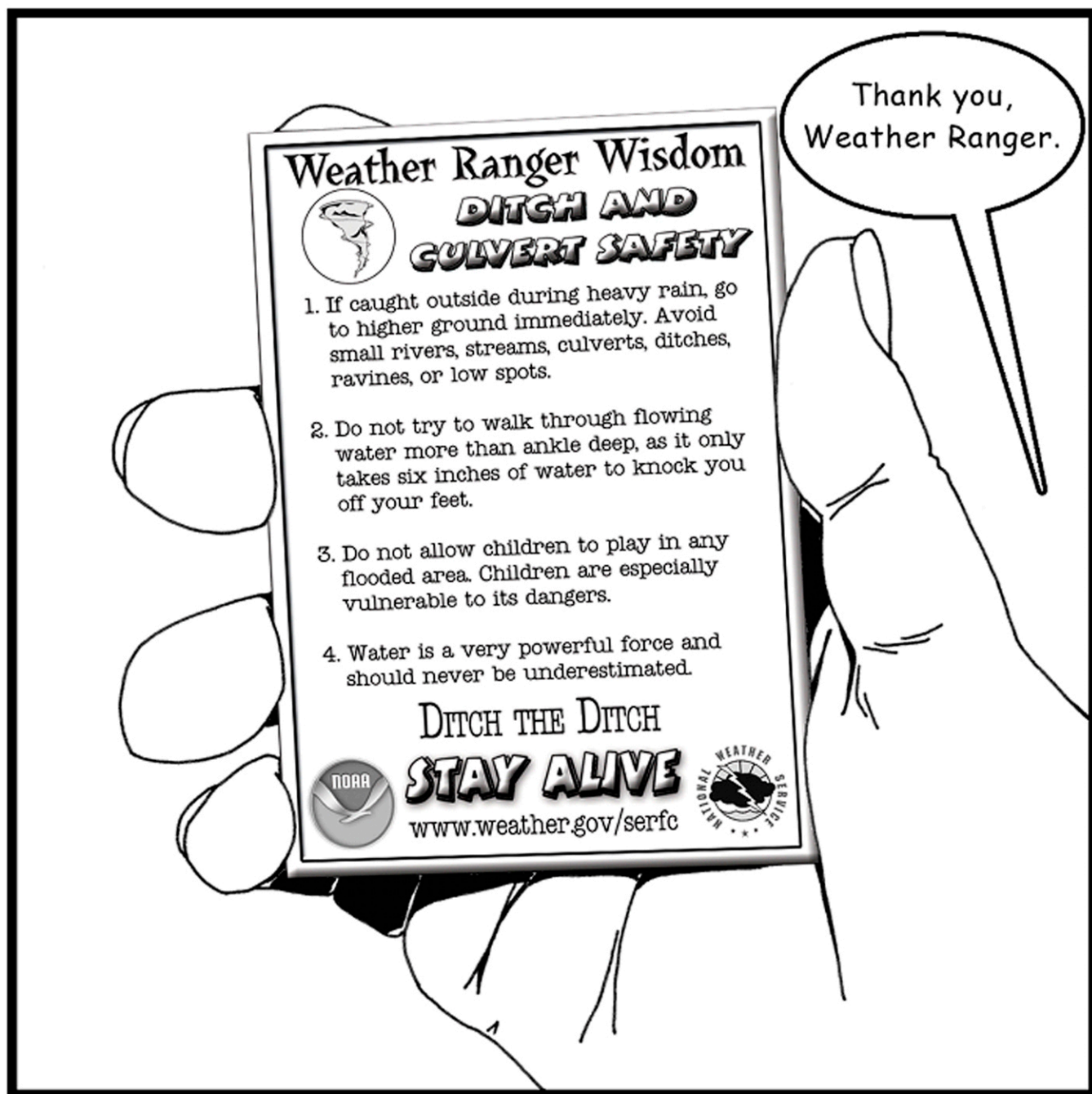
You can be one of the very special "Junior Weather Ranger" teammates. What do you think you can do to be one of the team?



**Answer:**

Hurricanes or tropical cyclones, heavy thunderstorms, snow melt, ice jams, periods of repeated storm systems, dam or levee breaks, or a waterway that is dammed either naturally or artificially, can all cause flooding.

To be a Junior Weather Ranger, just learn as much as you can about weather and its dangers and safety rules. Then be ready to tell others when dangerous weather happens. Saving lives is what being part of this team is all about.



### Question:

What's the difference between a flash flood watch and a flash flood warning?

Who issues these watches and warnings? How do you know that one has been issued in your area?



**Be Smart and  
Stay Alive!**



**Answer:**

A **watch** means that a flash flood is possible. Watch out! A **warning** means that a flash flood is happening or going to happen soon. Stay alert, remain on higher ground, and avoid flooded areas.

The National Weather Service issues all watches and warnings. The best way to know if a watch or warning is in effect for your area is to listen to a NOAA Weather Radio. These are special radios that broadcast NWS weather information. Other ways to hear about these watches or warnings are TV, radio, internet, and even some cell phone services.

# Weather Ranger Wisdom

Talk to your parents and teachers about these safety rules and get as much information as possible from them about what happens to your home, neighborhood, and community during a flood. Most kids who are hurt in floods have been playing alone or with other kids in very dangerous locations. You need to know where these dangerous locations are and what you should do in case there are no parents or other adults around to help you.

**Remember, during any flood or other weather emergency, stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or local television. Information from these sources may save your life.**

The National Weather Service issues **flash flood watches**, **flash flood warnings**, and **flood warnings**. A **flash flood watch** means that a flash flood is possible; watch out! Stay alert, be smart, and be prepared. Watch out for heavy storms and get ready to act if a flash flood occurs. A **flash flood warning** means that a flash flood is happening or going to happen soon. Stay away from rivers and streams and any other place where water can overflow and cause flooding problems. Examples of these other places are ditches and culverts, city streets near storm drains, irrigation and drainage ditches, and any other waterway near where you live or play. A flash flood can happen very quickly and, in most cases, will go away just as quickly. A **flood warning** is mostly for larger rivers and streams where the water reacts more slowly and the flooding lasts over a longer period of time.

During a flood emergency, don't panic! That only causes more problems. Move to higher ground immediately if you are in the path of the flood. If you are outdoors, leave everything and run! A flash flood can pick up cars, campers, vans, and recreational vehicles and roll them. It can move huge boulders, uproot trees and carry them downstream, wash out roads, and tumble bridges like little toys.

## **Here's what you can do before the flood:**

- ◆ Ask your parents if your house is in a flood plain. If it is, find out where the nearest creek, stream, or river is to your home and where you play.
- ◆ Assemble a disaster supplies kit with your family . This kit should contain a first aid kit, canned food and a can opener, bottled water, rubber boots, rubber gloves, a battery-powered radio, a NOAA Weather Radio, a flashlight, and extra batteries.
- ◆ Store drinking water in clean bathtubs and in various containers. Water service may be interrupted.

## **Here's what you should do during the flood:**

- ◆ Avoid those areas that are already flooded. If you come upon a flowing stream, do not walk through the water if it is above your ankles. Turn around and go another way. The water could knock you down and the current could sweep you downstream.
- ◆ If you are in a car with your parents or other adults, ask them to please not drive over a flooded road, since no one knows for sure how deep the water is. The road may be washed out under the water. You do not want to be stranded in your car in a flood. Cars can be lifted off the ground and carried away in as little as two feet of water. Be especially careful at night when it's more difficult to recognize the dangers.
- ◆ *Never, never, never* play around flood waters. You could easily slip and fall into the water and be swept downstream. You could also get trapped by rapidly rising water and be in danger before you could even react.



**Here's what you should do after the flood:**

- ◆ Do not visit disaster areas. You may be in the way of rescue or emergency professionals who are trying to help people.
- ◆ Boil water from the faucet before using it for drinking or cooking.
- ◆ Remember that the Red Cross provides first aid, food, clothing, and shelter in case the flood has damaged your home.
- ◆ Do not use any electrical equipment if it is wet. Have your parents or another adult check all of the electrical appliances, including your televisions, radios, or clocks if they got wet. This is a good rule anytime anything electrical gets wet.

Remember, kids, it is very important that you be smart and know what to do in severe weather emergencies. These include thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, high winds, hail, and heavy snow and blizzards, as well as floods and flash floods. Have an emergency action plan ready and help your family survive these severe weather events. While you're making action plans, don't forget a fire safety plan and an earthquake safety plan for your home. Having these plans and knowing what to do could mean the difference between life and death to you or to someone you love.





### Answer:

**Ignorance** means that you just don't know something. It's important to learn about weather that can hurt you so you won't be ignorant of the dangers.

**Apathy** means that you just don't care. Some people know about the dangers of weather, but they don't care or they think nothing could happen to them.

**Consequences** are results of decisions you make or actions you take. Some consequences are good and some are bad. It's important to make good decisions and to behave well so the consequences will be good.

**Blatant** means completely obvious or intentional, but in a bad way. When someone has a blatant disregard for weather's dangers, they know what could happen, but they almost dare it to happen to them. They seem to challenge the weather to a fight, thinking they will win.



**Question:**

Have you ever played in a creek or river? What did you enjoy about it?

Why would it be more dangerous to you if you played in a creek or river when it was flooding?





**Answer:**

A **flooded** creek or river is much more dangerous for many reasons. The water is moving much faster, and if you fell in, you could be swept downstream and possibly into deeper water. The mud is slippery on the bank, and you could lose your balance and fall in. A flooded creek is deceptive because it's calmest near the edge, which makes you think you can get closer than you should. The water is more powerful the closer into the middle you go. The fastest-moving water is generally in the center of the channel and below the surface. The fast-moving water can pull you down underwater, allowing you to get tangled in debris, such as tree limbs or rocks. Most of the time, the strength of the water is stronger than you are and will carry you wherever it wants to go, sometimes even into drain pipes .

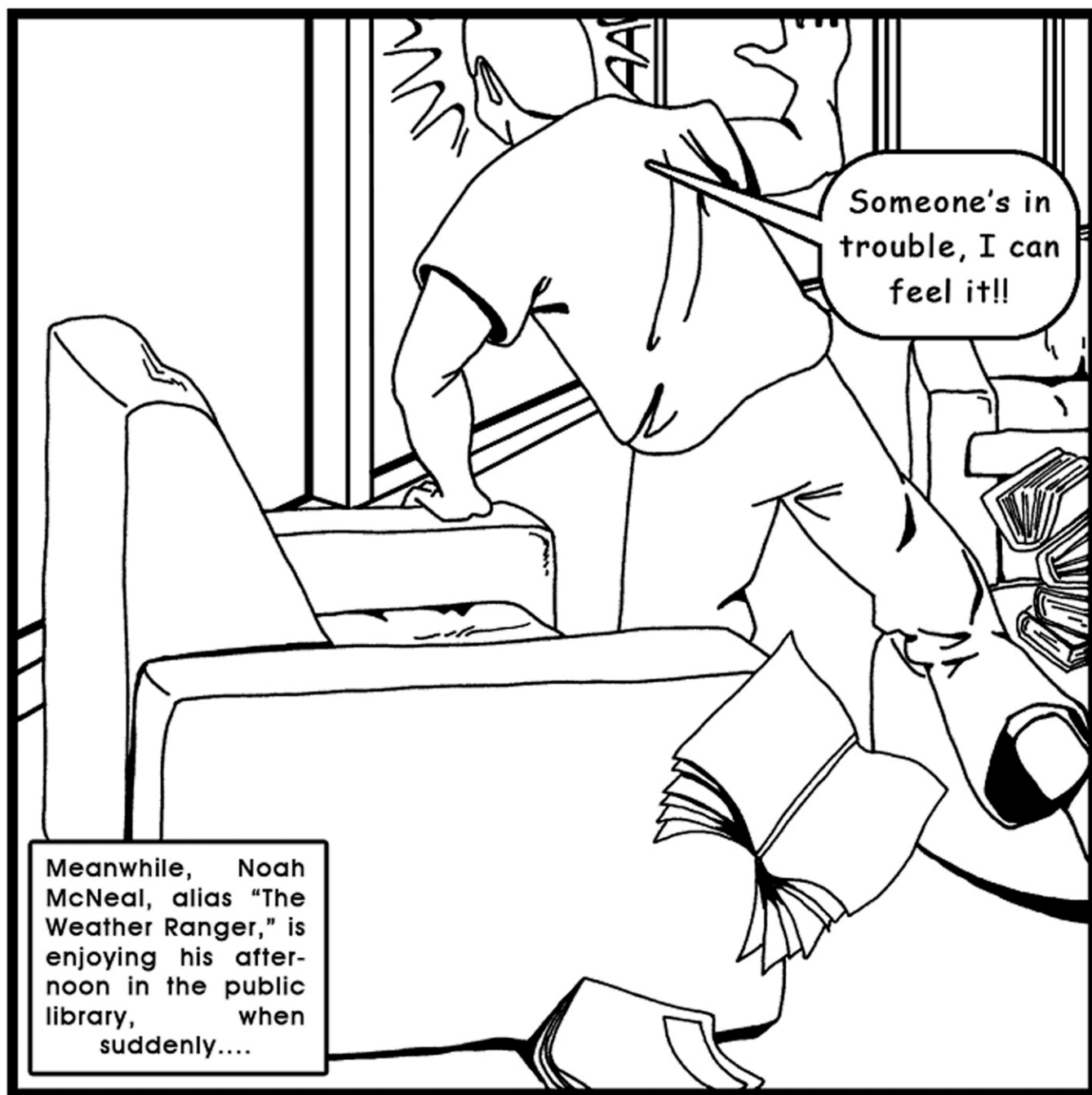




**Question:**

If someone you're with falls into a flooded creek, should you try to help him/her yourself, or do you go get adult assistance?

Why?



Meanwhile, Noah McNeal, alias "The Weather Ranger," is enjoying his afternoon in the public library, when suddenly....

### Answer:

Go get help from the closest adult you can find as quickly as you can. If you have a cell phone, call 911 immediately. You should never try to help your friend climb out yourself. You could very easily fall in like these young ladies did. Water is stronger than you think, and mud is more slippery than you expect. And yes, this could easily happen to you in the blink of an eye!



**Question:**

How many inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet?

Do you think these two girls would be able to get out of this dangerous situation if they knew how to swim well?





**Answer:**

It only takes six inches of fast-moving water to knock you off your feet and into the water. Also, flood water carries heavy debris such as sticks, tree limbs, and even rocks that can knock you down.

Even the strongest swimmers are no match for the power of a flooded creek or river. These raging waters can knock over bridges, buildings, and walls. It can chew apart roadways and carry cars, trucks, and even huge boulders downstream like they were toys.



**Question:**

How long can you hold your breath?

What does unconscious mean?