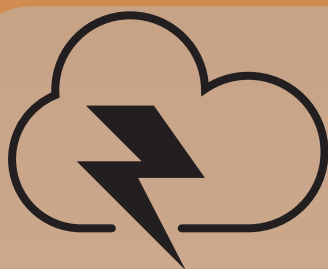
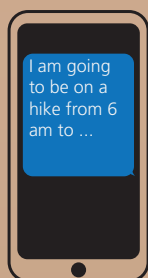


# Slot Canyon Flash Flooding

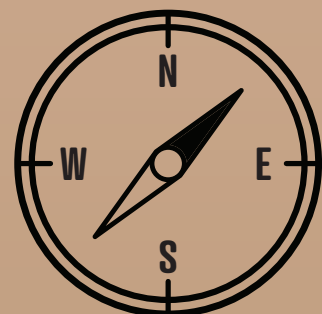
**Flash floods**, caused by a sudden rush of water filling a narrow space, are a powerful force in a slot canyon's formation and a serious risk to slot canyon explorers. During a flash flood, rapidly moving water can transport rocks, tree limbs, and other debris which can crash into the canyon walls and congest passageways.



**Always check the local weather forecast before going into a slot canyon.** Storms that cause flash flooding can actually occur several miles away from a slot canyon, so check the forecast for surrounding areas as well.



**Always let someone know which slot canyon area you will be exploring.** Check in at nearby ranger stations and always register for backcountry permits when required.



Always research the slot canyon ahead of time so you are aware of potential trouble spots. Pay close attention to your surroundings during the hike - **look for rock ledges, strong tree limbs, and exit points in case you need to make a quick escape.** Knowing an escape route ahead of time can save lives.

If you get caught in a flash flood **SEEK HIGHER GROUND IMMEDIATELY!**

Never try to cross flood waters. Just 6 inches of water can knock you off your feet and sweep you downstream.

Remember, it can take many hours for flood waters to recede.



## Signs of an impending flash flood:



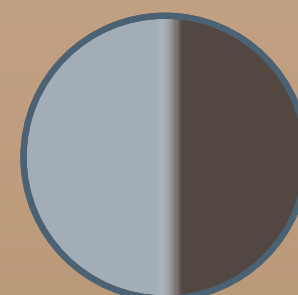
Rising water levels and/or stronger currents



Increasing roar of water up canyon



Floating debris



Sudden changes in water from clear to muddy