



Preparing for the Chapter Challenge

Use your interpretation of local topography to write a report about the potential for flash flooding in your community. You will use this report in your **Chapter Challenge**. Some of the questions below might help you prepare a report to ensure the safety of concert-goers at the proposed arena:

- Which parts of the community are particularly at risk for flooding?
- How often does this hazard affect your community?
- What weather conditions might indicate that a flash flood is possible?
- How can community members stay informed?
- What can the community as a whole do to prepare for flash floods and lessen their negative impact?
- What should citizens do if the National Weather Service issues a flash-flood watch or warning for the community?
- What can individuals do to protect themselves during a flash flood?

Inquiring Further

1. Flash flooding in your community

Do some research on a flash flood that affected your community or another community in your state. Find out how weather, topography, and other factors contributed to the flood. Use the *EarthComm* web site to help you with your research.

- a) Was the community prepared for the flood? Why or why not?
- b) How did weather contribute to flooding?
- c) How much higher than usual was the stream?
- d) During the flood, was the stream water a different color than usual?

- e) Describe any evidence of flooding after the floodwaters returned to their banks.
- f) Was there any injuries, loss of life, or major property damage?

2. City planning and severe weather

Conduct research in your community about the way that the city has been designed to handle the runoff from rain or snowmelt.

3. Investigate current flash-flood events

Visit the *EarthComm* web site to learn more about current flash-flood warnings in the United States.