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# Swift: Flood fight has its own language

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All this talk of snowpack, snow-ripening and “probabilistic outcomes” has me confused.

I can’t keep on top of all these flood-related terms. If they aren’t turning a noun into a verb (palletizing), they’re using words you need a meteorology degree to understand.

So I have – with a little help from newsroom friends – coined a more accessible “floodcabulary” of my own.

Let’s hope we get lucky and don’t have to use it.

**Bagrants:** People who spend so much time toiling at sandbagging sites that they never go home.

**Crestival:** The point at which the water finally starts going down and people start cracking beers. Then it’s officially time for a neighborhood “crestival.”

**Dam Yankees:** Northerners who live in flood-prone areas. (See also: “The Down-Sodden.”)

**Dike-otomy:** A dike that separates a neighborhood, protecting some homes and leaving others on the wet side, creating a “dike-otomy.”

**Dining alHESCO:** Gobbling down chow from the Salvation Army truck while sandbagging.

**The Down-Sodden:** People who get hit by floods year after year.

**Facebeg:** Using social networking sites to drum up friends to help you sandbag.

**FEMA donna:** Someone who thinks FEMA should cut them a check the minute their basement is damp. “DON’T YOU KNOW I’M A FLOOD VICTIM?!”

**Flood brothers:** Neighbors who bond by fighting the flood together.

**Floodsuckers:** Homeowners who allow their pampered teens to sit in their homes and play Wii while perfect strangers break their backs sandbagging their homes.

**High-ku:** A brief Japanese poem about your flood experience.

**PTFD:** Post-traumatic flood disorder. PTFD sufferers may keep their sandbag dikes up year-round, insist on wearing waders around the clock and refuse to eat any food that isn’t served from a Salvation Army truck.

**River mortis:** Someone who is so paralyzed by PTFD that he just sits in his Barca-Lounger and watches the river rise.

**Sandblaster:** The jerk in the sandbagging line who throws the bag with unnecessary force.

**Soak-crates:** Anyone who gets especially philosophical about the flood. The neighborhood Soak-crates will utter things like: “The real lesson is to love one another,” or “Would we appreciate a peach so much if it did not have a stone?” They also may write curiously uplifting High-kus.

**Sog-nosticate:** Those who like to make predictions about flooding, based on snowmelt, warming trends and what their buddy Earl said at coffee yesterday.

**State of Den:** Anyone who can channel the “If it happens, we’ll deal” spirit of Mayor Denny Walaker. Sustained possession of this peaceful attitude may qualify you as a “Den master.” (See also: Soak-crates.)

**Sumpchumps:** People who have one very old sump pump and yet believe it will keep their basement perfectly dry.

**Tieback Levee:** We’re still not really sure what this is. Rumor has it he played baseball with Satchel Paige.