



# Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media  
Public Affairs Office  
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## **WATER ON THE ROAD: TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN**

With heavy rains and strong winds moving through portions of Texas this week, the National Weather Service and the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety continue to urge Texans to avoid low water crossings and driving on flooded roadways.

Many flood-related injuries and deaths could be avoided if drivers would turn around and choose a different route when they see water across a road. When there's water running across a road, drivers should always turn around and choose a different route. These are the facts:

- Six inches of water can cause tires to lose traction and begin to slide.
- Twelve inches of water can float many cars. Two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-up trucks, SUVs and most other vehicles.
- Water across a road may hide a missing segment of roadbed or a missing bridge.
- In flash floods, waters rise so rapidly they may be far deeper by the time you are halfway across, trapping you in your vehicle.
- Flash floods are especially treacherous at night when it is very difficult to see how deep waters may be or how fast water is rising.
- Floodwater weakens roadbeds. Drivers should proceed cautiously after waters have receded, since the road may collapse under the weight of the vehicle.

Lives can be saved every year if Texas drivers follow this one rule: when there's water on the road, turn around, don't drown.

For additional information, click on <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/tadd/> or contact the National Weather Service at (817) 978-1111 ext. 140.

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