



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health

Road Safety

Flooding is the most common disaster in the U.S. and can cause a variety of problems to urban and rural communities. However, by utilizing these suggestions, you can learn how to stay safe before, during and after a flood.

THE FIRST RULE OF FLOODED ROADS

Do not drive on flooded roads. Find another route. Driving on flooded roadways is a sure way to be stranded, potentially injured or killed. It takes six inches of standing water - sometimes less - to cause your engine to stall. It takes 1 foot of water for a typical car to float, and 2 feet of water for larger vehicles such as pickups and SUVs.

IF YOU HAVE NO ALTERNATIVES

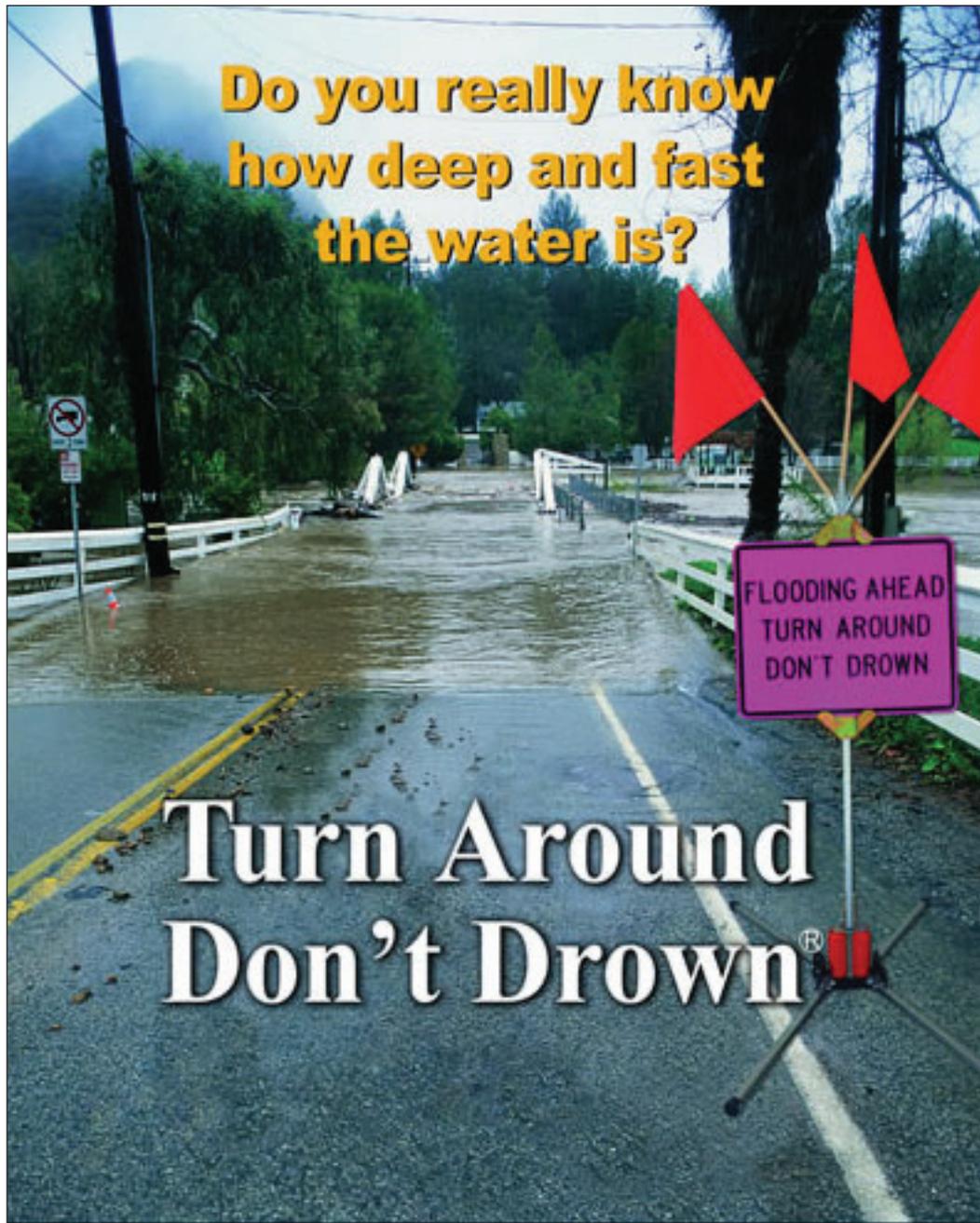
- If there are other vehicles around, watch what happens as they drive through an area. This will alert you to any hidden hazards.
- Approach water slowly before entering. Even shallow water can create conditions where you aquaplane.
- Maintain a steady pace once entering the water. If you enter too quickly you risk losing steering control; too slowly and you risk getting stuck.
- Do not enter water where downed power lines have fallen. Use an abundance of caution when entering water at night as it will be more difficult to identify potential hazards.
- Be aware of nearby vehicles and/or pedestrians. Driving through water creates a splash that may inhibit the visibility or soak people trying to maneuver in or direct traffic.
- Look out for debris that may float into your path.
- If your vehicle stalls, you may need to restart the engine to make it to safety. However, trying to restart the vehicle may cause irreparable damage to the engine.
- Once you are out of a flooded area, your brakes will be wet and may not function normally until dried. Light brake applications will help them dry out and warm up more quickly.



IF YOU BECOME STRANDED

- If your vehicle has stalled and will not restart once you've entered water, abandon it for higher ground only if water levels are rising. You may need to roll down a window if the door cannot be opened.
- Turn on your hazard warning lights. Call 9-1-1, or get the attention of someone passing by, if you are unable to get out of your vehicle safely.
- Remain calm and think through the best course of action and any/all potential consequences of a decision.

SOURCE: ND Department of Transportation, idrivesafely.com, Progressive, www.autofile.ca



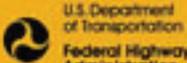
**Do you really know
how deep and fast
the water is?**

**Turn Around
Don't Drown[®]**

FLOODING AHEAD
TURN AROUND
DON'T DROWN

For important, life-saving information please visit
<http://tadd.weather.gov>

 National Weather Service

 U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

 AAVMA
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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