

Flood Safety- Facts and Tips



You should be cautious when driving or walking in flood-susceptible areas because:

- Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Two feet of floodwater can float your car.
- Water moving at two miles-per-hour is capable of sweeping a car off a road or bridge.

Avoid flood-susceptible areas, especially low-lying streets where water commonly pools. Never attempt to walk or drive through a water-covered roadway, and beware of rising, swift-moving water.

If you are driving and come upon rapidly rising waters, turn around and find another route. If your route is blocked by barricades, find another route. Barricades are put up by state or local officials to protect travelers from unsafe roads. Driving around them can be a serious risk.

- The road may be washed out below the water surface.
- Your vehicle may stall or get stuck in the water, and then get pushed off the road. Once off the road, vehicles often start to roll, making escape difficult or impossible.
- Many flood-related deaths in the United States are the result of an attempt to move a stalled vehicle.
- **WATCH FOR WILD LIFE.** Deer and other wildlife may be driven into the open and forced to cross highways to escape rising waters.



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What if I need to travel to a flooded area?

MoDOT offers the following safety tips for travelers:

Stay tuned: Listen to your radio, TV or National Weather Service radio for the latest information on weather conditions that can cause flooding.

Avoid flooded areas: Avoid flood-susceptible areas, especially low-lying streets where water commonly pools.

Don't cross flooded roadways: Never attempt to walk or drive through water covered or flooded roadways, and beware of rising, swift-moving water. Two feet of water can carry away most automobiles. Roadbeds may be washed out under floodwaters.

Turn Around: Never drive around barriers that warn you the road is flooded – turn around and find another route. If your route is blocked by barricades, find another route. Barricades are put up by state or local officials to protect travelers from unsafe roads. Driving around them can be a serious risk.



Leave your vehicle immediately: Get out and seek higher ground if your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water.

Help others: If you see a non-barricaded, water-covered roadway or major obstruction, such as a blocked culvert or bridge opening, call 417-359-9100 (JASCO) so they can alert the appropriate road agency. Warn children not to play near swollen creeks or rivers, storm drains, culverts and bridges, or on flooded streets and roadways.

Visit www.modot.org and/or www.weather.gov for more information!