



Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media
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DPS reminds motorists, “Turn Around, Don’t Drown!”

If you see water running across a roadway, you should immediately turn around and not attempt to go through it, says the Texas Department of Public Safety.

“Many cars will float in only 12 inches of water, and two feet of rushing water will carry off pick-ups, SUVs and most other vehicles,” says Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. “Six inches of water can be enough to stall a car or cause a loss of control over the vehicle.”

Each year, more people die in flash flooding than in any other type of thunderstorm-related hazard.

“You might think that you can easily get across a flooded roadway, but it’s not worth the risk. It’s impossible to tell the depth of the water—or whether the road or bridge is damaged or missing. Don’t endanger yourself or the first responders who may try to rescue you,” Col. Davis said.

Bottom line: stay aware and cautious, especially at night, when recognizing dangers can be more difficult. Pay attention to the weather and the road conditions.

Remember: Turn Around, Don’t Drown.