



# Flash Flood Safety



*Flashfloods kill over 200 people annually in the U.S. and trap thousands more, jeopardizing the safety of both civilians and professional rescuers. Turn Around, Don't Drown!*

*More information:* **City of Riverside Fire Department  
Office of Emergency Management  
(951) 320-8100**

- Nearly 50 percent of all flash flood fatalities nationwide involve vehicles. Saving your life can be as easy as turning your car around when you see water on the road. Never attempt to drive through flooded roadways.
- Even in relatively shallow water, tires can act as flotation devices, lifting up big vehicles and sending them downstream. It takes only two feet of water to float a 3,000-pound car.
- Beware that water covering roadways may hide washed-out bridges or gouged-out roadbeds. If you attempt to drive across, you may not be driving on a road.
- In rainy weather, be alert and stay tuned to local radio or TV stations.
- If you are in a low-lying area when flooding is occurring, get to higher ground quickly. And be sure to avoid canyons and washes that can channel swift water.
- Do not attempt to cross flooded roads or streams on foot. It can take as little as six inches of water to knock an adult off his or her feet. Furthermore, water may be flowing more rapidly than it appears.
- Never allow children to play near ditches and storm drains.
- During stormy weather, do not camp or park vehicles along streams or washes.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to see flood dangers.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or your local media for important weather related information. Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.

## **When a Flash Flood WATCH Is Issued . . .**

- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

## **When a Flash Flood WARNING Is Issued . . .**

- Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades . . . they are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

**CITY OF RIVERSIDE - OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**(951) 320-8100**  
**[www.ReadyRiverside.com](http://www.ReadyRiverside.com)**