

Flood Safety Tips

About 80% of flood deaths occur in motor vehicles. Never attempt to drive into a flooded roadway. It only takes about two feet of water to float most cars. A common remark of motorists who survived driving through a flooded road and were swept away was that they only thought the water was a few inches deep.

Even if the vehicle in front of you successfully crossed a water-covered road, it is best to find an alternate route or to wait. If you get stuck, you are not only risking your life, but also the lives of rescue personnel.

Most of the deaths due to flooding in Ohio in the past 10 years have been motorists driving through a flooded roadway or persons refusing evacuation requests. A wise choice can save your life!

If you live in a low-lying area or near a creek, pay close attention to water levels during heavy rain events. Water rises rapidly during flash floods, often taking victims by surprise. Be prepared to move quickly to higher ground if water levels begin rising rapidly.

Never let children play near creeks or storm drains. Every year, deaths or injuries occur as a result of people getting swept away into a creek or storm drain, with the most frequent victims being children.

If you are camping, never place your tent or camper on the bank of a river or creek. Allowing some distance between your campsite and the creek is best, so if a flash flood does occur, you will have more time to move to higher ground.

Remember that just 6 inches of rapidly moving flood water can knock a person down. A mere two feet of water can float a large vehicle, even a bus.

Flood Facts

Floods and flash floods are the leading weather-related killers in the United States. Flooding in Ohio is no exception. In the past 16 years, there have been 68 flood-related deaths in Ohio.

Three types of flooding occur in Ohio . . .

General River Flooding occurs after long-term heavy rain, snow melt, or a combination of the two. It usually occurs slowly, allowing more time to move people and property to safety.

Flash Flooding is always life threatening and occurs very quickly. Flash flooding typically occurs in hilly or mountainous areas, but can occur anywhere when heavy rain falls in a short amount of time. Flash flooding can also be caused by a dam failure.

Urban and Small Stream Flooding is a more subtle flood threat. It can occur when heavy rains fall in an urban or rural area, resulting in flooding streets, underpasses, or drainage ditches in an urban area, or creeks in rural areas. It is not normally a threat unless motorists drive through the flooded road or children play in the flooded drainage ditches. Small stream flooding can be hazardous if persons get too close to a swollen creek.