



PRESS RELEASE MATERIAL 'FLASH FLOOD AWARENESS'

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Mitigation Bureau
Floodplain Management / Dam Safety Branch

Since January 2001, flash floods have killed four people within our state. Nationwide, flash floods account for the majority of flood related fatalities. A flash flood is the result of intense storms that drop large amounts of rain within a brief period. Such events often occur with little or no warning and can inundate areas with several feet of water within minutes. Motorists should take precautions when encountering water-covered roads; the best advice is DO NOT attempt to traverse flooded roadways.

Areas particularly at risk are those located in low-lying areas, near water, or downstream from a dam. When a flash flood warning is issued you may have only moments to save yourself. Floodwaters are extremely dangerous. The force of only six (6) inches of swiftly moving water can knock you off your feet. Cars can easily be swept away in just two (2) feet of moving water. If floodwaters surround your car, abandon it and seek higher ground.

Here are some tips you should follow to survive a flash flood event.

- Get out of areas subject to flooding.
- Avoid already flooded and high velocity flow areas. Do not attempt to drive through flowing water.
- If driving, be aware that the roadbed may not be intact under floodwaters. Turn around and go another way. NEVER drive through flooded roadways!
- If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and sweep the occupants away. It's better to be wet than dead!
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Children should NEVER play around high water or storm drains.

Use extreme caution when encountering floodwaters. The amount of time spent avoiding flooded roadways will save your life.