

# How to Survive Flash Floods in your Car

- **Stay alert during stormy weather. Listen and watch for thunder and lightning. Heavy rain upstream could send a flash flood your way without you even feeling a drop of rain.**
- **Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and canals, particularly during threatening conditions.**
- **Keep away from areas downstream of dams when heavy rains hit. The dams are vulnerable points that, when breached, can quickly lead to disastrous flash flooding.**
- **If advised to evacuate, do so immediately! Families should use only one vehicle to avoid getting separated and reduce traffic jams.**
- **Stay on high ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, areas near canals/streams, etc.**
- **Don't drive if you don't have to.**
- **Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognise flood dangers.**
- **Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of water is not always obvious. The road bed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.**
- **Do not drive around a barricade. Barricades are there for a reason! Turn around and go another way!**
- **Never drive through a flooded road or bridge. Back up and try a different route.**

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- **Listen to the radio for weather information.**
- **Do not stay in a flooded car. If your vehicle is surrounded by floodwater, abandon the vehicle and move immediately to higher ground.**
- **If your car is swept into the water and submerged, DON'T PANIC! Stay calm and wait for the vehicle to fill with water. Once the vehicle is full, the doors will open. Hold your breath and swim to the surface.**
- **If you are swept into fast moving floodwater outside of your car, point your feet downstream. Always go over obstacles, never try to go under.**
- **If you are stranded on something above the floodwater, such as a tree or building, stay put, and wait for rescue. Do not enter the floodwater!**
- **Don't overestimate your car's ability to drive through floodwater. Six inches of water is enough to reach the bottom of most passenger cars. Driving in water this deep is enough to cause a loss of control or stall the car. A foot of water will float most cars and two feet of rushing water will sweep most vehicles, including SUVs and pickups. Abandon your car immediately if it stalls in water.**
- **Climb to the nearest high ground--whatever your situation--if you fear you're in the path of a flash flood. Wait out the flood or call for emergency assistance, if necessary.**
- **If at all possible, avoid contact with floodwater. Floodwater may be contaminated with oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Floodwater may also be charged with electricity from fallen power lines.**