



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

FLOODS/FLASH FLOODS SAFETY

Floods, especially flash floods, kill more people each year than hurricanes, tornadoes, wind storms or lightning. About 60% of all flood deaths are people in vehicles that moving water sweeps away.

If you drive into seemingly shallow water, you could land your car or truck in water two or three feet deep, which is enough to float a car away.

Experts advise you not to drive or wade into flood water at all, especially if you can't see the bottom. Water over a road, no matter how deep, can hide washed-out pavement. As little as six inches of moving water is enough to float a small car and carry it away. Flowing water can be deceptively strong, packing a significant punch no one expects

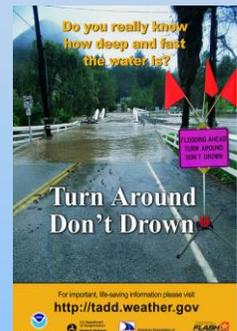
By Chris Cappella, USATODAY.com

Know the Difference:

Flood/Flash Flood Watch—Flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area.

Flood/Flash Flood Warning—Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or occur soon in your area.

- Fresh water moving at only 4 mph, a brisk walking pace, exerts a force of about 66 pounds on each square foot of anything it encounters;
- Double the water speed to 8 mph and the force zooms to about 264 pounds per square foot. That's enough force to push a car or light truck off a flooded road if the water is up to door level.
- In case of Emergency request assistance by calling 9-1-1.



Additional Resources

<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/states/pa-flood.shtml>

<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/hazards.shtml>

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/flood>

<http://www.pema.pa.gov>

