



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Kidder County District Health Unit**

# Road Safety

Flooding is the most common disaster in the U.S. and can cause a variety of problems to urban and rural communities. However, by utilizing these suggestions, you can learn how to stay safe before, during and after a flood.

## THE FIRST RULE OF FLOODED ROADS

Do not drive on flooded roads. Find another route. Driving on flooded roadways is a sure way to be stranded, potentially injured or killed. It takes six inches of standing water - sometimes less - to cause your engine to stall. It takes 1 foot of water for a typical car to float, and 2 feet of water for larger vehicles such as pickups and SUVs.

## IF YOU HAVE NO ALTERNATIVES

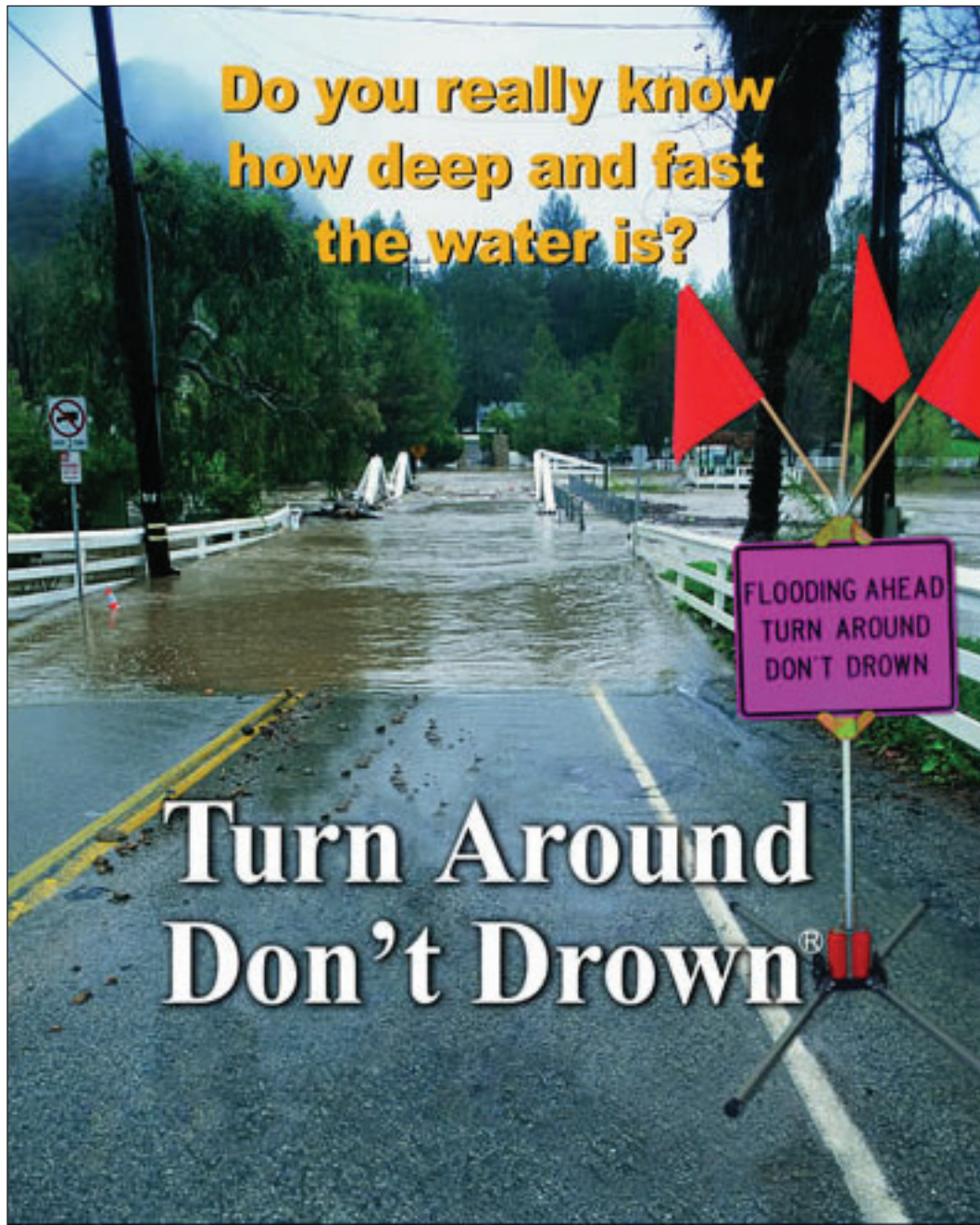
- If there are other vehicles around, watch what happens as they drive through an area. This will alert you to any hidden hazards.
- Approach water slowly before entering. Even shallow water can create conditions where you aquaplane.
- Maintain a steady pace once entering the water. If you enter too quickly you risk losing steering control; too slowly and you risk getting stuck.
- Do not enter water where downed power lines have fallen. Use an abundance of caution when entering water at night as it will be more difficult to identify potential hazards.
- Be aware of nearby vehicles and/or pedestrians. Driving through water creates a splash that may inhibit the visibility or soak people trying to maneuver in or direct traffic.
- Look out for debris that may float into your path.
- If your vehicle stalls, you may need to restart the engine to make it to safety. However, trying to restart the vehicle may cause irreparable damage to the engine.
- Once you are out of a flooded area, your brakes will be wet and may not function normally until dried. Light brake applications will help them dry out and warm up more quickly.



## IF YOU BECOME STRANDED

- If your vehicle has stalled and will not restart once you've entered water, abandon it for higher ground only if water levels are rising. You may need to roll down a window if the door cannot be opened.
- Turn on your hazard warning lights. Call 9-1-1, or get the attention of someone passing by, if you are unable to get out of your vehicle safely.
- Remain calm and think through the best course of action and any/all potential consequences of a decision.

SOURCE: ND Department of Transportation, idrivesafely.com, Progressive, www.autofile.ca




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how deep and fast  
the water is?**

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Don't Drown<sup>®</sup>**

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DON'T DROWN

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 National Weather Service

 U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

 American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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