

Be Prepared for Floods

[Turn around, don't drown](#) is the National Weather Service's campaign to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through floodwaters. Did you know that a mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult or that it only takes two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles?

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. So far in 2014, 16 [major disaster declarations](#) have been declared that involve flooding; the most recent on July 28 in South Dakota. However, not all floods are alike. Some floods develop slowly, while flash floods can develop in just a few minutes.

If you have to leave your home, or you're out on the roads during a flood, [remember these tips](#):

- Do not walk through moving water. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground, when water is not moving or not more than a few inches deep. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly. If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay in the vehicle. If the water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening conditions.

Even after a flood, you need to still be cautious. Listen to local radio and monitor alerts to get information as soon as possible. Use caution when entering buildings and especially when attempting to drive. If your car stalls in floodwaters, immediately get out and climb to higher ground.

For more detailed information, download [How to Prepare for a Flood](#), a hazard-specific guide, which provides information on the basics of floods, how to protect yourself and your property, and what steps to take now. Come high water, don't get caught!