



TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricane Awareness Week: Inland Flooding

AUSTIN – Hurricanes are nature's most powerful storms and can lead to flooding hundreds of miles inland. The heaviest rainfall can occur 200 miles away from the center of the storm. Hurricane storm systems can sweep far northward into neighboring states, causing further floods days after they make landfall.

The best advice for drivers is never to drive through water running across roadways. When drivers see water across roads or highways, they need to back up and choose alternate routes.

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through November 30.

Water on a roadway can be much deeper than it appears and water levels can rise very quickly. Floodwaters erode roadways. A missing section of road, even a missing bridge, will not be visible with water running across the area

If your car stalls in floodwater, get out quickly and move to higher ground. Floodwaters may still be rising and the car could be swept away at any moment. Also keep in mind that water flowing only six inches deep can knock adults off their feet.

Water displaces 1,500 pounds of weight for every foot that it rises. In other words, if a car weighs 3,000 pounds, it takes only two feet of water to float it. Cars can become death traps because electric windows and door locks can short out when water reaches them, trapping occupants inside.

Flooding, including flash flooding, is the number one cause of weather-related deaths in Texas. Many of these deaths could be avoided if drivers would turn around and avoid driving into water covering a road.

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For more information, contact TDEM Public Information at 512.424.2138 or visit TDEM's Web site: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.