



**San Diego County
Sheriff**

Training Bulletin

**William D. Gore,
Sheriff**

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Water Safety Tips

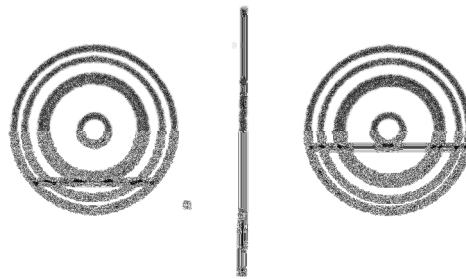
The National Weather Service reports:

"Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters. People underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded. A mere **6 inches** of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just **12 inches** of rushing water to carry away a small car, while **2 feet** of rushing water can carry away most vehicles. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters. "

- Do not enter moving water unless trained and equipped
- Do not tie yourself to a rope if you enter moving water
- Do not get out of a vehicle trapped by moving water
- Stay where you are if trapped-wave or radio for assistance
- If caught in a river, face up with feet pointed downstream

Driving through water:

If driving through deep or standing water is unavoidable, proceed very slowly especially when the depth is not known. Never drive through swift moving water or water that is higher than the bottom of the wheels rims (for cars) or the bottom of the hub (for trucks).



Patrol Cars and SUV's

Trucks

When driving through water, traction or brake capability may be limited. Also, water may enter your engine's air intake and severely damage your engine or your vehicle may stall. Driving through deep water where the transmission vent tube is submerged may allow water into the transmission and cause internal transmission damage.

The information in this Training Bulletin was provided by the Sheriff's Emergency Planning Detail. If you have any information or expertise in a specific area and would like to write a training bulletin, please contact Corporal Daniel Gutierrez at the L.E. In-Service Training Unit via e-mail at [REDACTED]