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## West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

# News Release

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For Immediate Release  
December 12, 2007

### **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN**

**CHARLESTON, W. Va.** – Turn your vehicle around and do NOT drive through flood waters. Small stream flooding has been occurring this week throughout West Virginia and some roads are being overtaken by flood waters. The West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management would like to remind everyone NOT to drive through flood waters; turn around, don't drown.

The number one cause of weather related deaths in West Virginia is driving over flooded roads or through low water crossings, reports the National Weather Service in Charleston, WV. Remember, water is powerful. Moving water that is 18-24 inches deep can sweep most vehicles away, including trucks and SUVs.

Not only should people not drive through flood waters, but people should not walk through moving flood waters because they are swift and can knock a person off their feet. Flood waters carry debris that can be deadly to anything in its path. Remember to not let children around flowing water because they are especially vulnerable.

Also, be especially cautious at night because it is harder to see what dangers flooding may bring.

Please stay safe around flooded roads and "Turn Around, Don't Drown".

*Note: This information was taken from the National Weather Service in Charleston, WV. Media contact: Dan Bartholf, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, 304.746.0180, [www.weather.gov/charlestonwy](http://www.weather.gov/charlestonwy)*

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