



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

NEWS RELEASE

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John R. Kasich, Governor

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235
614-889-7150

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Contact: State Joint Information Center, (614) 799-6480

ODOT reminds motorists ‘Turn Around Don’t Drown’

Force and power of water easy to underestimate

COLUMBUS (Tuesday, March 1, 2011) – With more than 83 road closures and restrictions around the state due to flooding – and more expected as rivers, creeks, and streams rise – the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) reminds motorists when faced with flooded roadways, ***Turn Around Don’t Drown.***

ODOT safety experts urge motorists to be aware when approaching a flooded road, stop and do not cross. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. And NEVER drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

ODOT crews are hard at work removing fallen trees and mud and debris from roadways as water recedes.

With water across the roadway, drivers cannot always determine the depth of the water and if roadbeds are washed out. Six inches of moving water can knock a person down and a mere two feet of water can move a large vehicle. The best advice: ***Turn Around Don’t Drown.***

Many weather conditions can cause a flash flood, making these the most dangerous kind of flooding because they combine the destructive power of high water with incredible speed and unpredictability. Rapidly rising water creating a flash flood may occur with little warning.

At the national level, more deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other severe weather-related hazard. More than half of all flood-related deaths occur in automobiles as people and their vehicles are swept downstream. The main reason is that people underestimate the force and power of water.

Know Before You Go: Up-to-the-minute road conditions are always available by logging onto www.BuckeyeTraffic.org. During weather events, road conditions are updated as often as necessary, with information such as lane restrictions and closures due to construction, crashes or flooding.

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