

# Flash Floods



## **The Risk of Flash Floods**

Johnson County is prone to flash flooding along many creeks. Six inches of fast-moving floodwater can knock you off your feet. Two feet will float your car!

- Never try to walk, swim, or drive through floodwaters.
- Flash floods occur within minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.
- Most flash flood deaths occur at night, trapping people in automobiles.

## ***Before Flooding***

- Evacuate immediately if you are advised to do so.
- Move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwater.
- Monitor weather radio, television, or the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for information.

## ***During Flooding***

- Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding.
- STOP if you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles. Turn around and go another way.
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road.
  - The depth of the water is not always obvious.
  - The roadbed could be washed out; and you could be stranded or trapped.
- Never play around high water, storm drains, viaduct, or creeks, etc.

## ***After Flooding***

- Throw out fresh food that has come in contact with floodwaters.
- Call your local health authority if you are in doubt about the purity of your water.
- Check electrical equipment and ensure it is dry before returning it to service.
- Use flashlights to examine buildings.
  - Lanterns, torches, and matches are not recommended. These flammables may be unstable.
- Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
  - Never go near a fallen electric line.
  - Always assume a fallen electric line is energized.
  - Touching a fallen electric line could be fatal.
  - Do not try to rescue someone touching a fallen electric line. Call the proper authorities.
  - Never drive over fallen electric lines.
- Remain calm if your vehicle makes contact with an energized electric line while you are in your vehicle.
  - Stay in the vehicle unless it is on fire.
  - Wait for help to arrive.
  - Jump completely clear without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time, if you must exit the vehicle because of fire or other safety reasons.
  - Land with both feet together and shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current to avoid electrical shock.