



**TURN AROUND
DON'T DROWN**





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As little as 60cm (24") of still water can float a car and 30cm (12") of flowing water may be enough to push a vehicle sideways off a road, floating vehicles are prone to rolling over and if this happens the chances of survival are slim.

- Never drive through water if you are uncertain of the depth.
- Do not enter water that is higher than the vehicles sills.
- Do not try to cross fast moving water such as at flooded fords, overtopped bridges, or flooded roads.
- Even if the water level is not excessive, the road surface beneath could be damaged or the layer below the tarmac may have been washed away, this will cause the road to collapse when the weight of a vehicle passes over it.
- Take particular care at night when it might be difficult to see areas of flooded road, even shallow patches of standing water can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Your SatNav cannot see flooded roads, do not blindly follow it.

IF YOU GET INTO TROUBLE

- If you become stuck in flood water it may be safer to stay with your vehicle unless the water is stationary or very slow moving, below knee depth and you can see the condition of the ground below the surface to know that it is safe to leave your vehicle.
- If you can't make it to a safe place open a window before the electrics fail, climb onto the top of the car or sit on the edge of the door, call 999.
- If you remain in the vehicle try and move back from the path of airbags, they have been known to deploy once water enters the electrical system.
- **Beware: only 6" of moving water can sweep you off your feet.**

YOU ARE NOT JUST RISKING YOUR LIFE

- Getting it wrong can be expensive, the air intake on many cars is low at the front of the engine and it only takes a small quantity of water sucked into the engine to cause serious damage.
- Modern vehicles are fitted with catalytic converters in the exhaust system. The catalyst normally works at high temperatures and may crack if it is submerged in water. Replacement catalysts are expensive.
- If you come across impassable roads tell someone, inform the Police or contact Cornwall Council by telephoning 0300 1234 222.

