

## CERT Monthly Safety Tip

## **Turn Around Don't Drown**

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. It is reported that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous floodwater. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near floodwaters.

People underestimate the force and power of water. Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road. The road may have collapsed under that water. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving floodwater can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks. It is NEVER safe to drive, walk or swim through floodwaters.

## Remember:

- Floodwaters may hide downed electrical lines
- Flooding can contaminate drinking water
- Floodwaters can contain sewage, debris, sharp objects, snakes, and alligators

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