



Idealease Safety Bulletin

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Turn Around Don't Drown!

With the recent storms and flooding that has occurred this spring, drivers of any type of vehicle need to be aware of the fact that road conditions can change rapidly with flash floods. Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Over half of all flood related deaths each year occur with victims inside vehicles. Many of the deaths occur in vehicles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded. Even when operating a large commercial motor vehicle you can be swept away by the strong force of the waters current. I remember vividly watching a number of years ago a cement mixer which had been caught in a storm water canal in Los Angeles during a flash flood be swept down the canal as if it were a toy boat. To check on weather conditions and flooding, go the National Weather Service website at: www.srh.weather.gov.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, **Turn Around Don't Drown**. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

Upcoming Events!

***May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month**

***Roadcheck 2013: June 4-6**

- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers
- Avoid low water crossings.
- Use alternate routes to avoid flood prone areas.
- Leave your vehicle immediately if it stalls in flood waters.
- Move to higher ground if you can do so safely.
- Most cars and light trucks will begin to float in as little as 1 to 2 feet of water.



Question of the Week?

What is considered to be a speed violation by the FMCSA on a Record of Duty Status (Log Book)?

Answer:

As a general rule of thumb, a speed violation occurs when a driver has logged a speed that is greater than 5mph under the posted speed limit. The FMCSA interpretation to the regulation CFR 392.6 is as follows:

Question 1: How many miles may a driver record on his/her daily record of duty status and still be presumed to be in compliance with the speed limits?

Guidance: Drivers are required to conform to the posted speed limits prescribed by the jurisdictions in or through which the vehicle is being operated. Where the total trip is on highways with a speed limit of 65 mph, trips of 550-600 miles completed in 10 hours are considered questionable and the motor carrier may be asked to document that such trips can be made. Trips of 600 miles or more will be assumed to be incapable of being completed without violations of the speed limits and may be required to be documented. In areas where a 55 mph speed limit is in effect, trips of 450-500 miles are open to question, and runs of 500 miles or more are considered incapable of being made in compliance with the speed limit and hours of service limitation.

