

# Staying Safe

A Program of the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission and...



Safe Sober

Wisconsin Department of Transportation



# SEVERE WEATHER DRIVING

## TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®

Each year more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard.

A mere 6 inches of fast moving water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car, while 2 feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles.

**IT IS NEVER SAFE TO DRIVE OR WALK INTO FLOOD WATERS.**

### HOW TO DRIVE IN A FLOOD

*Pay attention to barricades.*

*Do not drive through standing water on roads or in parking lots.*

*Take extra precautions if you're forced to drive through water.*

- Estimate the depth of water.
- Drive slowly and steadily through the water.
- Avoid driving in water that downed electrical or power lines have fallen in – electric current passes through water easily.
- Watch for items traveling downstream – they can trap or crush you if you're in their path.
- If you've driven through water up to the wheel rims or higher, test your brakes on a clear patch of road at low speed. If they are wet, dry them by pressing gently on the brake pedal with your left foot while maintaining speed with your right foot.
- If your vehicle stalls in the deep water, you may need to restart the engine to make it to safety. Restarting may cause irreparable damage to the engine.
- If you become trapped in rising water, immediately abandon it for higher ground.



## TORNADO WATCH AND WARNING... DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

### TORNADO WATCH

Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

### TORNADO WARNING

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately under ground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

## IF CAUGHT OUTSIDE OR IN YOUR CAR DURING A TORNADO:

- Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.
- If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, in a deep ditch for instance, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.

## IN ALL TORNADO SITUATIONS:

- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

## SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter or has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people some years than tornadoes or hurricanes.

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

**EVERY HOME, BUSINESS AND SCHOOL SHOULD HAVE A NOAA WEATHER RADIO**