



DEVON &  
SOMERSET  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

For more flood information visit:

- The Environment Agency website for a three day flood risk forecast [environment-agency.gov.uk](http://environment-agency.gov.uk)
- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service News desk during extreme weather conditions at [www.dsfrs.gov.uk](http://www.dsfrs.gov.uk) and follow the link to the news desk.
- Local TV and Radio stations.

# Driving in floodwater



For a free Home Fire Safety Check

**Contact us**

 0800 05 02 999

 [firekills@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firekills@dsfire.gov.uk)

 [www.dsfire.gov.uk](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk)

Text info line: 078 00 00 2476

To request any information in this document in an alternative format or language please call **0800 05 02 999** or email [firekills@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firekills@dsfire.gov.uk)



## Hidden dangers on flooded roads

**Extreme weather conditions including heavy rain can make travelling on our roads extremely hazardous.**

Losing control of your vehicle when approaching flood water too fast is not the only risk you face.

Flooded roads present a high risk if you do not know your limitations.

**The following information explains where to make those judgement calls and how to stay safe whilst driving in flood conditions.**

- If a road has been closed, it is for the safety of the public and closure signs should be respected. This includes driving and walking.
- Do not attempt to walk through flooded areas. Even shallow water moving fast can sweep you off your feet and there may be hidden dangers such as open drains, damaged road surfaces, submerged debris or deep channels. These can cause serious injuries or even death.
- It is often impossible to tell how deep the water is or the condition of the ground beneath. Wading or driving through floodwater can be extremely hazardous and you could be putting yourselves and others at risk.

- You or your vehicle may be swept away if the water is moving. Vehicles can float away in less than two feet of water.
- Do not smoke, eat or drink whilst in contact with floodwater and always wash your hands afterwards as the water may be contaminated.
- Keep children and vulnerable people out of floodwater.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately if safe to do so and seek higher ground.
- Do not travel in heavy rain storms unless absolutely necessary. Keep an eye on the weather reports on local television or listen to local radio.
- Whilst attending vehicles with passengers trapped in flood water, Emergency Services are rendered unavailable to assist others who may be in greater danger.

