



Orange County Emergency Management

August 23, 2017

12:30 P.M.

The National Weather Service has advised Orange County to monitor Tropical Depression Harvey and begin taking precautions for the threat of heavy rainfall. Orange County is preparing for extended rain and possible flooding that may last for several days. Please check ditches and other areas for debris that may cause drainage issues in the event of flooding.

Underpasses may not drain, so please watch for barricades. In some situations, flooding may occur rapidly without time for barricades.

Orange County residents are encouraged to closely monitor the situation by visiting the National Hurricane Center online at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> or http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/AL092017_key_messages.png.

FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

- In rainy weather, be alert and stay tuned to local radio or TV.
- If you are in a low-lying area when flooding is occurring, get to higher ground quickly.
- Secure outdoor furniture, garbage cans, children's toys and other property that could float away.
- Clear the drains and gutters of debris.
- Do not attempt to cross flooded roads. It can take as little as six inches of water to knock an adult off his or her feet. Furthermore, water may be flowing more rapidly than it appears.
- Never allow children to play near ditches and storm drains.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to see flood dangers.
- Animals and snakes may be affected by floodwaters and may be more prone to attack.
- If there is a loss of power, treat all intersections as a four way stop.
- Nearly 50 percent of all flash flood fatalities nationwide involve vehicles. Saving your life can be as easy as turning your car around when you see water on the road. Never attempt to drive through flooded roadways.
- Avoid underpasses.

PR #1

- Even in relatively shallow water, tires can act as flotation devices, lifting up big vehicles and sending them downstream. It takes only two feet of water to float a 3,000-pound car.
- Beware that water covering roadways may hide washed-out bridges or gouged-out roadbeds. If you attempt to drive across, you may not be driving on a road.
- If you drive through high water, remember to watch your speed. Your vehicle may be able to maneuver in high water, but you will push water in to homes and cause problems for others.
- Remember: Turn around, don't drown.

Officials will continue to monitor the situation and will post further updates as they become available.

Please publish the following to the general public;

For updated information please visit our website at

<http://www.co.orange.tx.us/OCOEM/index.htm>

Facebook Page, search for: Orange County Office of Emergency Management

DO NOT PUBLISH, for media use only: Public Information Officer, Janois Grizzaffi at 409-233-9192 or pio@co.orange.tx.us