

# **BAD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS**

## **FLOOD WARNINGS**

During the winter months and during periods of heavy rain, flooding can occur without warning. During flooding, residents living along streams and creeks or other flood prone areas should take immediate precautions to protect life and property.

Do not drive your vehicle into areas where the water covers the roadway. The water depth may be too great to allow your car to cross safely. Turn around. Don't drown.

Safety to our families is crucial to a successful community. Here are other ways to stay safe during bad weather.

### **Outdoor Safety during Flood Season**

The following tips will help ensure your safety during the flood season:

1. First and foremost, do not drive through floodwaters. The water can be deeper than it appears. Remember, two feet of water can cause a car to be swept away.
2. Parents of small children should ensure that children are never left unattended near flowing water.
3. Make provisions for your pets to ensure their safety from potential hazards around water.
4. Consider your family's health and safety needs. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with floodwaters.
5. Throw away food that has come in contact with floodwaters.
6. Before a potential flood, move all chemicals, (such as pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides, etc.), and store them in waterproof containers above projected flood levels.

### **Driving in Bad Weather**

To improve visibility, turn on your lights and defroster. Try to drive in the tracks of the car ahead, reduce your speed, and allow for additional stopping distance. Puddles of rain can conceal potentially damaging potholes. Hydroplaning can occur. When this happens, the tires of your car lose contact with the road and ride up on a wedge of water. Make sure your tires have good treads and are properly inflated. If your car does hydroplane, keep the steering wheel straight; take your foot off the gas. Do not hit your breaks or try to steer. As your speed slows, the weight of the car will cause the car to settle down onto the road again. Report any flood-related damage to Clallam County Emergency Management at 417-2525.

Call 911 should you have an emergency, or call 360-452-4545 for general information. Listen to your local radio station, 1450 AM, for weather updates.