



A great place to live, work, shop!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mr. Matthew Clark - 513.701.6968 – mclar@deerfieldtwp.com

When waters rise, don't be caught unprepared

Deerfield Township, OH—April 19, 2011 — The Deerfield Township Fire/Rescue Department would like to remind citizens to stay away from rising water during times of heavy rain and flooding. Regardless of the appearance of pooled or running water, it is extremely dangerous to attempt to wade or drive through water of any depth. Some things to bear in mind with respect to rising water:

- Flash floods can come rapidly and unexpectedly. Be mindful of your surroundings, particularly when you're near a water source or drain (river, pond, storm sewer, inlet/outlet piping, etc.).
- Never attempt to drive through standing or moving water if avoidable. The smooth surface of the water may hide potholes, debris or even in severe instances places where pavement and road base have been washed away.
- As little as six inches of water can reach the underside of most passenger vehicles and can cause major damage. Trying to restart a waterlogged engine or where fuel has been compromised by water can quickly damage electronic and machined parts of most vehicles causing thousands of dollars in damage.
- If your vehicle stalls, you'll be stranded and in serious peril if waters continue to rise. You'll be putting yourself and rescuers in harm's way based solely on one, easily avoidable situation.
- Most vehicles—even large, 4x4 SUV's—will begin to float in as little as one foot of water. As little as two feet of flowing water can wash away most vehicles.
- If you drive into water, you could easily lose control of your vehicle and cause an accident if other vehicles are around you, much like driving on ice.

Use common sense and sound judgment when assessing water and flooding risks. Stay safe this spring by respecting the power of pooled and flowing water, whether you're in your vehicle or caught outside near flooding.

###