

# Thunderstorms

Most flash floods are caused by slow moving thunderstorms, thunderstorms that move repeatedly over the same area. These floods can develop within minutes or hours depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions or ground cover.

Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more.

Occasionally, floating debris can accumulate at a natural or man-made obstruction and restrict the flow of water. Water held back by the debris dam can cause flooding up stream. Subsequent flash flooding can occur downstream if the obstruction should suddenly release.

*Working together to keep you safe:*

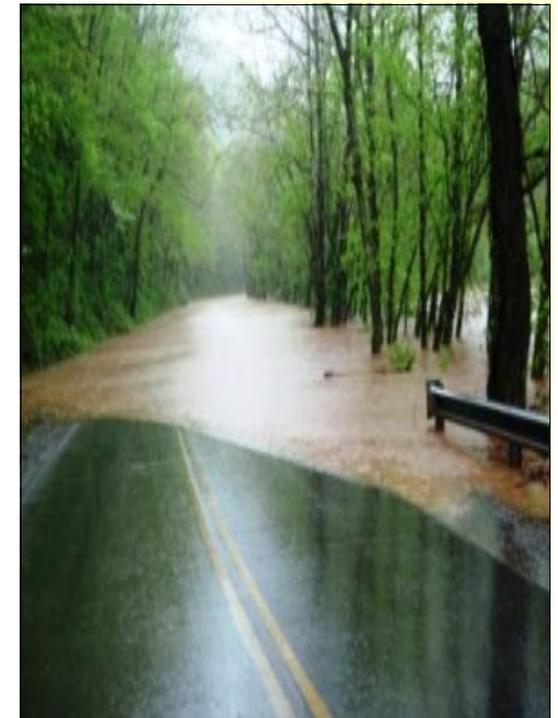


## Nassau County Building Department

96161 Nassau Place  
Yulee, FL 32097  
Phone: 904-491-7337  
Fax: 904-321-5763  
[jhare@nassaucountyfl.com](mailto:jhare@nassaucountyfl.com)

**TURN AROUND  
DON'T DROWN**

Don't enter  
water  
crossing the  
road



**It's not worth your life!**

## TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drowning's, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, **Turn Around Don't Drown**. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.



## FOLLOW THESE SAFETY RULES:

- \* Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- \* If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do no attempt to cross flowing streams. **Turn Around Don't Drown**
- \* Road beds may be washed out under the flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. **Turn Around Don't Drown**. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- \* Never try to walk, swim, drive or play in flood water. You may not be able to see how fast the flood water is moving or see holes or submerged debris.
- \* Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.



## What to do after a Flood....

- \* Get necessary medical care at the nearest hospital. The American Red Cross can provide shelter, food and first aid, as well as a means to purchase new clothing.
- \* Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
- \* Use flashlights, not lanterns, torches, or matches, to examine buildings. Flammables may be inside.
- \* If the power is out, use flashlights, not candles
- \* Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- \* Boil drinking water before using. Wells should be pumped out and water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt, call your local public health authority.
- \* If fresh or canned food has come in contact with flood waters, throw it out.