

EM Online: Queensland Government floodwater safety

floodwatersafety.initiatives.qld.gov.au/anatomy-of-an-incident

Queensland Fire and Emergency Service rescue more people from floodwaters than fires annually.

Many drivers don't understand the risks when driving into floodwater and often feel pressured to do so by other drivers, or their own strong desire to get home in severe weather.

The flood safety website has great information to help drivers understand risk and what actions they should take. While the flood map and other information may be specific to Queensland, it serves as a good starting point for all drivers.

The site includes information about floodwater risk, having a backup plan if roads are flooded, and understanding what may lie beneath flooded roads. Having a Plan B can help drivers avoid dangerous floodwater by knowing and using alternative routes, identifying safe locations to wait for the water to recede, and making prior arrangements for family.

The site also has a fact and fiction section to highlight the errors in some common ways of thinking and acting. It also has videos of people giving first-hand accounts and reflecting on their experiences with floodwater.

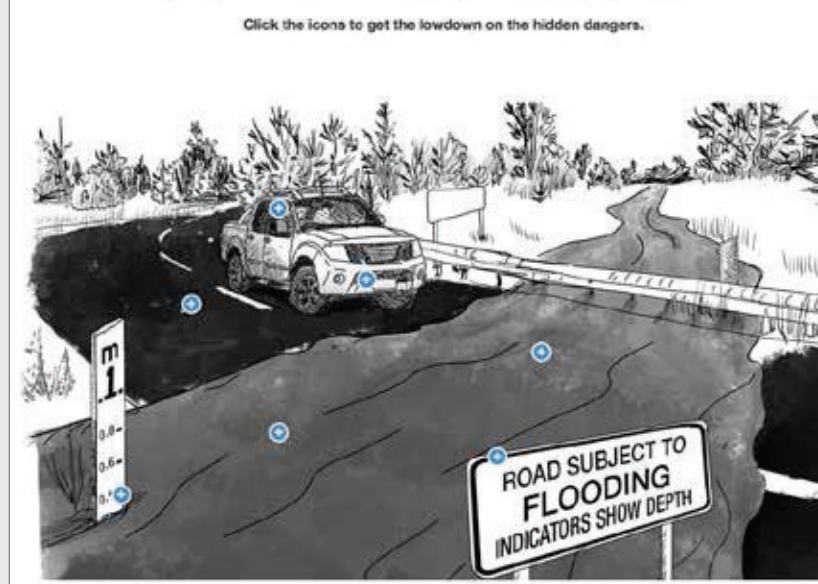


Anatomy of an Incident

No one can predict floodwater, or what happens underneath. Find out why.

The second you decide to push through floodwater, you will give up control. Firefighters across the state rescue more people from water each year than they do from fires.

Click the icons to get the lowdown on the hidden dangers.



ROAD SUBJECT TO FLOODING
INDICATORS SHOW DEPTH

"My vehicle can handle the water. It's a 4WD, heavy, diesel, has a high clearance and a snorkel."

FICTION

As soon as you enter floodwater, you are giving up control of your vehicle and relying on luck to get you through. Each year across Australia, a well advanced vehicle is "swamped" by floodwater, despite the confidence of the driver. Forget what you can do and drive, and use your best floodwater.

"Even gently moving floodwater can wash away the road surface beneath"

FACT

Water which appears gentle-moving and calm on the surface, can be moving with extreme force, breaking everything in its way underneath. The blower surface, road base underneath, or pipes and earth below can easily be washed away, leaving multiple hazards hidden from a driver's view.