

DRIVING IN THE RAIN

With heavy rain comes the possibility of flooding. Drivers should use extreme caution while traveling through low-lying areas or on roads that are prone to flooding.

Driving Tips

- Be sure to turn on your lights. Remember, it's the law.
- Just like in winter weather, try to keep a little more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. Four to five seconds is a good rule.
- Watch for debris in the roadway, such as downed trees or limbs.
- Watch and be prepared for spray from larger vehicles like trucks.
- Never drive through standing water. This could cause you to hydroplane and lose control of your vehicle.
- If you come across a flooded road that has not been barricaded, turn around and use an alternate route. Do not try to move or drive around the barricade.
- There is no way to tell if flooded roads have been washed out by swift-moving waters.
- If you come across a downed power line, DO NOT try to move the line. Stay well away and contact your local authorities.
- Rapidly rising water could engulf your vehicle and sweep it away. According to the National Weather Service, two feet of water will carry away most automobiles. Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are automobile-based.

Plan Ahead

- Call 511 or visit www.511Virginia.org for the latest road conditions on major highways throughout the commonwealth.
- Visit www.VirginiaDOT.org for road condition information on interstates and primaries managed by VDOT.

VDOT's Role

VDOT's key role is responding to storms is to open roads as quickly and safely as possible. Other responsibilities include:

- Setting up traffic control and detours and assisting with traffic control for evacuations
- Removing debris and branches from roadways and coordinating clean-up with other entities – such as power companies
- Making emergency repairs to damaged roads and bridges
- Assessing damages and providing emergency engineering services
- Coordinating long-term recovery to restore transportation infrastructure
- Providing emergency plans and procedures
- Providing back-up communications to support emergency response and recovery operations

Additional Resources

- Twitter – <http://twitter.com/Vadot>
- YouTube – <http://www.youtube.com/vdotweb>
- www.vaemergency.com
- Local media