

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC  
800 AM EDT WED MAY 28 2014

...THIS WEEK IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK FOR 2014...

All week long the National Weather Service will issue informative messages to help you prepare for the hurricane season. Each day we will cover a different topic. Today we will talk about **inland flooding**.

Inland flooding is the most deadly and serious threat hurricanes bring to inland areas of North Carolina. The most devastating storm in our state's history...Hurricane Floyd...generated record flooding across much of eastern North Carolina claiming 56 lives...leaving thousands homeless and entire towns under water. Most hurricane deaths over the past 30 years have been the result of flooding. During the past 30 years nearly 60 percent of all U.S. tropical cyclone deaths have occurred from inland freshwater flooding. Nearly 78 percent of all children killed by tropical cyclones drown in these floods. Around 80 percent of all flooding deaths have occurred in automobiles as people attempt to drive through flooded areas where water covers the road. The NWS safety campaign...Turn Around - Don't Drown...is aimed at educating everyone about the dangers of driving into flood waters.

It is important to realize the amount of rain a tropical system produces is not related to the intensity of the wind. Weak hurricanes and even tropical storms have caused disastrous floods throughout history. For example in 2006...the remnants of Tropical Storm Alberto moved over central North Carolina dropping 4 to 8 inches of rain from Sanford to Raleigh. This resulted in major flooding along numerous creeks including Swift Creek in Apex and Crabtree Creek in Raleigh. In 2010 the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole interacting with other weather systems dropped over 10 to 20 inches of rain over eastern North Carolina. The result was flooding which rivaled that following Hurricane Floyd. In a number of towns from Wilmington to Windsor and Ahsokie experienced the worst flooding since Hurricane Floyd and in some cases the flooding was much worse.

So what can you do? Anytime a hurricane or tropical storm threatens...think flooding. It is very important to determine if you live in an area at risk of flooding. If your yard or nearby roads around your home flood during ordinary thunderstorms you are at serious risk of flooding from torrential tropical rainfall. Those living near creeks...streams and drainage ditches should also closely watch water levels. Remember...extreme rainfall events bring extreme flooding typically not experienced in the past. During extreme events even those area which normally do not flood are at risk.

Always stay aware of road conditions and make sure your escape route is not becoming flooded by heavy rain. Never attempt to cross flowing water; instead...remember to turn around...don't drown. The reason that so many people drown during flooding is because few of them realize the incredible power of water. A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. This includes pickups and SUVs. Never allow children to play near streams...creeks or drainage ditches. As rain water runs off...streams...creeks...and ditches fill with running water that can easily sweep a child away.

Finally...have an emergency action plan and know your homeowners and flood insurance policies. Flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance. Do not make assumptions and remember to check your policies.

For more information about hurricane preparedness...please visit the following web sites:

- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare>
- <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>