



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Public Information Officer, 503-441-9324 (pager)

LOCALIZED FLOODING PROMPTS TVF&R TO ISSUE TIPS

Heavy rain has resulted in standing water on roads and highways and concerns about rivers, creeks, and culverts flooding. This morning Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue crews responded to several crashes in which the standing water may have been to blame. With heavy rains expected throughout the week and weekend, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Water Rescue Team advises the following tips for your safety:

- Slow down. Rain decreases visibility and increases stopping distances.
- Drivers of four-wheel drive vehicles must remember that they are not immune from hydroplaning on wet surfaces. SUVs are just as likely to lose traction as any other vehicle.
- Do not walk or drive through flooded areas. Less than six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Motorists should heed all "Road Closed" signs and not attempt to cross any standing or moving water that looks more than a few inches deep. It doesn't take much water to cause a car's engine to stall or cause drivers to lose control of their vehicles. Cars, including heavy trucks, can get swept away in less than two feet of swift water.
- If flood waters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground, if you can do so safely.

Individuals concerned about localized flooding near their home or business are reminded that sandbags are available at various sites in Washington and Clackamas County. To see a list of sites, visit TVF&R's website at www.tvfr.com or www.tvfr.com/safetytips/emer_prep/Sandbags.aspx.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Water Rescue Team is based in West Linn at Fire Station 59. The team consists of 12 firefighters who are stationed permanently at that station, and six additional associate team members. The team responds as part of the Clackamas County Water Rescue Consortium consisting of several fire departments and sheriff offices that protect the water ways in the tri-county area. Team members excel in swift water rescue, advanced boat operations, and (SCUBA) dive support. TVF&R's team utilizes various tools to perform its tasks including a 23 ft. Motion Marine jet boat.

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