

REGION 8



SAFETY ALERT

No. R8 SA 15-01

October 2, 2015

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Subject:

Dangerous Field Conditions

Area of Concern:

Field Operations

Distribution:

All Field Personnel

Discussion:

Significant Weather Effects

All personnel are to take extra precautions due to the significant amount of rainfall occurring along the Atlantic Coastal States of the Southern Region. Saturated soils and windy conditions from recent weather events may create hazardous conditions that may be encountered in the field. Examples include:

- Downed trees blocking roadways;
- Downed power lines;
- Flash flooding;
- Mud slides;
- Emergency release of flood control structures;
- Marine currents and water swells;
- Coastal erosion;
- Degraded roadways;
- Weakened dams, levees, and debris jams;

Many creeks and rivers will likely reach or exceed their max flow capacity. Live trees could fall due to oversaturated soils. Passable roadways may deteriorate behind you and leave you stranded. Radio and cell phone towers may be inoperative. Assess the risks and make contingency plans for field operations. Accept no unnecessary risks. Safety briefings should be enhanced to address conditions worse than expected.

The following websites are good references to gain additional information:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/view/nationalwarnings.php?map=on>

<http://www.intellicast.com/Local/WxMap.aspx>

[FEMA Daily Ops Briefing 10-02-2015.pdf](#)

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/>

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Flash Flood Safety Tips – Flooding can occur as streams and rivers overflow their banks, or any time there is rainfall with significant duration and intensity.

1. Flash floods occur rapidly and unexpectedly. They can happen within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, or when a dam or levees fail and even a sudden release of water held by a debris jam.
2. You may not have warning that a flash flood is approaching.
3. Do not drive in extreme weather conditions unless absolutely necessary.
4. Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded-out road ahead, turn around and find another route to your destination.
5. If there is no other route, get to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.
6. Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, don't try it. Water hides dips in the road. Worse yet, there may be no road at all under the water. Flooding can scour away the entire road surface and a significant amount of ground beneath.
7. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
8. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
9. One foot of water will float most vehicles.
10. Two feet of rushing water can sweep away most vehicles – including SUV's and pickup-trucks.

Region 8 FAM Safety & Operations