



3511 WOOLLEY ROAD • OSWEGO, IL 60543 • (630)554-2110 FAX: (630)554-8681

Michael Veseling, Fire Chief • Dick Kuhn, President • Bob Trip, Secretary

Ken Holmstrom, Treasurer • Rodger Long, Trustee • Jason Bragg, Trustee

Press Release

For Immediate Release
May 20, 2020

“Turn Around, Don’t Drown” High Water Dangers

(Oswego, IL) With this spring’s exceptionally heavy rains, the Oswego Fire Protection District would like to remind our citizens of the dangers of driving over flooded roads. This week’s rains have caused the flooding and closure of several area roads and the members of our department have already been called to aid several motorists stranded in rising water!

Every year flooded roadways cause countless injuries and deaths and flooding accounts for an average of 85 fatalities each year. This compares to 75 who lose their lives in tornadoes, 51 to lightning, and 47 to hurricanes according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (30-year avg.) In fact, the Center for Disease Control further reports that one-half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into flood waters.

When walking or driving near or on flooded roadways, remember:

- 6-inch-deep water can sweep you off your feet!
- Walking into flood waters is NEVER a good idea. Flooded roadways are not swimming pools. There are numerous unseen dangers in flood waters including the contaminated water itself!
- Never try to cross water that rises above the center of your wheels! Water above the center of your wheels will likely seriously damage your car and may place you in great danger!
- Even in relatively shallow water, there may be numerous hazards lurking below the water such as open manholes, culverts, sharp debris, or washed-out roadbeds.
- 12 inches of flood water is enough to stall and float most passenger cars away! (2 feet of water will likely wash away even SUV’s and trucks!)
- Even when flood waters recede, there are many dangers that exist on or near roadways such as;
 - Weakened road surfaces
 - Contaminated waters
 - Gas leaks and “live” powerlines!
- **DO NOT** try to drive through flood waters and **ALWAYS** stay clear of moving water!

We know that driving in rain can be dangerous and nerve racking... please do not create more danger for yourselves by driving into flood waters. Please, stay alert to changing road conditions and never drive around barricades!

Your Oswego Firefighters are well trained, well equipped, and prepared for many challenges...please do not risk their lives needlessly by intentionally driving into flood waters.

Stay alert, stay safe, and “Turn Around, Don’t Drown”



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The Oswego Fire Protection District was formed by voter referendum in March of 1936, covers over 60 square miles in the northeast portion of Kendall County and about 1.5 square miles of northwest unincorporated Will County.

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