

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ASKS TEXANS TO BE AWARE OF FLOODS

The Brazos River Authority urges Texans to be careful this spring and watch for potential flooding – whether at home, on the road or visiting one of the state’s many beautiful lakes or streams.

Officials have designated March 15-19 as National Flood Safety Awareness Week. With Texas soils already soaked by copious rains over the fall and winter, being aware of weather conditions is all the more essential.

On average, floods kill nearly 100 people in the United States annually and cause nearly \$7 billion in damages.

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). People tend to underestimate the power and force of water and drive around flood warning signs or through low water crossings they believe are safe. Instead, their vehicles are swept downstream. Many of these drownings could have been prevented if people heed the warning, “Turn around, don’t drown.”

To avoid becoming a tragic statistic, follow these tips:

- Obey warning signs and heed all road closings
- Never drive through flooded roadways. If your vehicle is caught in rising water, leave immediately and seek higher ground.
- Monitor NOAA weather radio or other news sources for weather-related information.
- Check the National Weather Service’s river observation Web page, [here](#), to see if nearby rivers or streams are flooding. You can also check the Authority’s interactive map of stream gauges at [this link](#).
- Be aware of the risk of flash flooding. Even if there is not rain in your area, showers upstream can cause water to rise quickly with little or no notice.
- Avoid playing in and around small streams and culverts during rains.