

On the WATER Front

A Message from John Balliew, P.E., President/CEO



July 2016

Summer forecast: stormy weather

Turn Around Don't Drown®. Some people might call it a “no brainer.” They’ll say it’s just common sense. But the National Weather Service tells us that flooding causes more deaths than other storm-related hazards and that many flood-related drownings occur when people drive into flood water. The El Paso Fire Department has responded to more than 30 drowning and near-drowning incidents since 2013.

The National Weather Service uses the phrase “Turn Around Don't Drown®” to promote flood safety. El Paso Water is using the phrase in its annual stormwater safety campaign. You’ll hear announcements on the radio and see messages on billboards. We’re reminding you that storm drains can be deadly, and flash floods can kill in a flash.

Flash floods can be caused by slow-moving storms or a large amount of rain in a short time period. Don't underestimate the power of fast-moving water. Flowing water increases in velocity as it drops in elevation, and drivers can lose control quickly. One foot of rushing water can carry away a small car in seconds. Two feet can carry away most vehicles, including trucks, vans and SUVs.



Be storm safe

Don't allow children to play in stormwater facilities. They might become trapped or injured, and their calls for help might not be heard. Canals, drains and ponds are not safe for swimming, no matter how cool and inviting the water appears. Even shallow water can be powerful. Just six inches of rushing water can knock people off their feet.

So don't get swept away by fast-moving water. Remember to never walk, drive, swim or play in flood water. And never drive around barricades; they're placed there for your protection.

Be safe during the summer monsoon season. Turn Around Don't Drown!®

The summer sandbag distribution schedule is in effect through Sept. 30. Click [here](#) for locations and times.



**Storm Drains
Can Be Deadly
Turn Around Don't Drown®**

