

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

FOLLOW THESE SAFETY RULES

- **MONITOR NOAA** Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, **GET TO HIGHER GROUND**. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- **AVOID AREAS ALREADY FLOODED**, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. Never drive through flooded roadways. **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- **DO NOT PARK YOUR VEHICLE ALONG STREAMS** and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- **BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS AT NIGHT** when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

FLASH FLOODS

Except for heat related fatalities, more deaths occur from flooding than any other hazard. **WHY?** Most people fail to realize the power of water. For example, six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet.

While the number of fatalities can vary dramatically with weather conditions from year-to-year, the national 30-year average for flood deaths is 127. That compares with a 30-year average of 73 deaths for lightning, 65 for tornadoes, and 16 for hurricanes.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE data also shows:

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related,
- The majority of victims are males, and
- Flood deaths affect all age groups.

MOST FLASH FLOODS ARE CAUSED BY SLOW-MOVING THUNDERSTORMS, that move repeatedly over the same area or heavy rains from tropical storms and hurricanes. These floods can develop within minutes or hours depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions and ground cover.

FLASH FLOODS CAN ROLL BOULDERS, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides.

FLOATING DEBRIS OR ICE CAN ACCUMULATE occasionally at a natural or man-made obstruction and restrict the flow of water. Water held back by the ice jam or debris dam can cause flooding upstream. Subsequent flash flooding can occur downstream if the obstruction should suddenly release.



The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates for the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans. We encourage flood-safe development and sound floodplain management practices through education, higher standards, and certification.

OFMA appreciates all the hard work by teachers, parents, and the many others who supported this year's poster contest. The students who entered also deserve our thanks. We hope that by working together to spread the **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®** message, fewer people will be harmed by flood waters in Oklahoma.

This year, more than 210 participants competed for the four statewide awards. This year's winners are:

1ST PLACE - SKYLAR GIRTY

Maryetta Schools

2ND PLACE - ZURI ROSSMAN

MacArthur Elementary

3RD PLACE - PAISLEY MOTE

Bridge Creek Intermediate

HONORABLE MENTION - AIYANA WOODS

Bridge Creek Intermediate

Special thanks to the following schools for supporting student participation in this year's program:

- ◆ Adair Public Schools
- ◆ Bearden Elementary
- ◆ Bridge Creek Intermediate
- ◆ Canton Elementary
- ◆ Catalayah Elementary
- ◆ Hilldale Elementary
- ◆ Kiefer Public Schools
- ◆ Lincoln Elementary
- ◆ MacArthur Elementary
- ◆ Maryetta School
- ◆ Pernell Elementary
- ◆ Stone Canyon Elementary

First, second and third place winners receive cash awards in the amount of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. The top 13 posters in the state are published in the OFMA Turn Around Don't Drown® calendar. Each student participant is awarded a certificate of participation. Teachers receive a letter of appreciation.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!!!



**Oklahoma Floodplain
Managers Association**

Our Organization...

Formed in November 1990, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) brings together people with a common interest in floodplain management. We are a chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc., and our members include concerned citizens, public employees and elected officials, engineers, planners, contractors, lenders, insurance agents, real estate professionals, students, corporate partners and local, state and federal agencies.

Our objectives embrace promoting interest in flood damage abatement, improving cooperation among government agencies, and encouraging innovative approaches to managing Oklahoma's floodplains. We believe that our membership is critical to presenting one unified voice to communicate on flood-related issues.

Our Vision...

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training and service to Oklahomans.

Our Mission...

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

For volunteering opportunities, please visit www.okflood.org.

2025/2026 TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board offers resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements.

Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma's accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA's online courses.

Visit the resources below for specific information including dates, topics, and registration information.

OWRB Workshops: <https://oklahoma.gov/owrb/floodplain-management/floodplain-administrator-training.html>

OFMA Conferences: <https://okflood.org/conferences/>

FEMA Online Courses: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

FLOOD SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

PRIZES

- Must be a student (Grade 3-5) to win.
- \$150 for first prize, \$100 for second prize or \$50 for third prize plus award certificates.
- Certificate of Appreciation for participating students and teachers.
- Media release for winning schools.
- Posters printed in annual Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association calendar.



This program is part of NOAA National Weather Service Turn Around Don't Drown® campaign and sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

SUBMITTING ART WORK

- Mail to OFMA, Attn: Calendar, P. O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.
- Drop off at WSB, 416 S Utica, Tulsa OK 74109.
- Submit electronically at education@okflood.org.

JUDGES

- Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) Board

POSTER BASICS

- Use 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper in landscape orientation.
- Must be original art work.
- No copyrighted or syndicated characters or cartoons.
- Show the dangers of driving through flood waters. Include "Turn Around Don't Drown" or "Es Mejor Regresarte que Ahogarte."
- Use bright colors. Markers work Best.
- Due April 1 (in our hands, not post-marked).

ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST FORM **DEADLINE: APRIL 1**

Now's your chance to show off your talent, win cash and help Oklahomans with flood awareness.

Just fill in this entry form and give it to your teacher with your original poster.

Name

Grade

Parents

County

School Name

Parent's
E-mail

School Address

City

Zip

Teacher Name

E-mail

All entries become the property of OFMA. The right to modify any poster for reproduction is reserved. Visit

[CUT OUT AND ATTACH TO POSTER]