



## State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

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### Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, July 18, 2021  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### HEAVY RAINS FLOOD ROADS, LEAD TO SOME CLOSURES

CONCORD, N.H. – Heavy rains and flooding have caused road closures in several communities in New Hampshire. The National Weather Service in Gray, Maine issued a Flood Warning for parts of Cheshire and Hillsborough counties through 12:15 P.M. Sunday, July 18, 2021.

People in communities with flooding should *take action, seek higher ground immediately and avoid all floodwaters*. Stay aware of changing conditions and heed instructions from local safety officials.

“Never drive through flooded roadways. If you are in a vehicle, *turn around, don’t drown*,” said state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer Harper. “The majority of flood deaths occur in vehicles. If you need emergency assistance, dial 9-1-1.”

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) reports several roadway closures due to flooding, primarily in the western part of New Hampshire.

“For your safety please do not travel through flooded roadways says NHDOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan “Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide hazards such as sharp objects. A vehicle caught in swiftly moving water can be swept away in seconds 12 inches of water can float a car or small SUV, 18 inches of water can carry away large vehicles.”

Campers staying at sites along rivers and streams, and campgrounds in low-lying parts across the warning area are strongly encouraged to evacuate if flooding is occurring.

Harper offers the following safety tips:

- Check the weather and listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for critical updates from the National Weather Service.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 1 foot of water can sweep your vehicle away. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- If you must evacuate, secure your home, including disconnecting electrical appliances.

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Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03305  
603-271-2231, 1-800-852-3792, Fax 603-223-3609  
State of New Hampshire TDD Access: Relay 1-800-735-2964

- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water. Just 6 inches of water can reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- Avoid floodwaters as they may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

These core steps are key to preparedness and keeping you and your family safe:

1. Stay informed by signing up for NH Alerts.
2. Make an emergency kit.
3. Have a family emergency plan.
4. Get involved in your community.

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*NOTE: The [National Weather Service](#) issues a Flood Warning when a flood is imminent or occurring.*