



---

## NEWS RELEASE

---

**Contact:** Captain Barrett Baker  
Public Information Officer  
410-1901 pager  
Barrett.baker@tucsonaz.gov

**Date:** 07/02/2014  
**TDD:** 837-7016

### **Monsoon (Storm) Safety**

- Never cross a wash or road that has running water flowing over it. The water depth is very easy to misjudge, and the road itself may be damaged or destroyed underneath the murky water. As little as ten inches of water can float average-sized cars, mini-vans, SUVs and trucks. Be especially cautious at night as flood dangers are much more difficult to see in the dark.
- Do not play in wet or dry washes especially when thunderstorms are in the area. A wash can become flooded in a matter of minutes even if it is not raining in that area. Flash flooding can occur many miles away from the thunderstorm as the runoff flows into the valleys and deserts.
- During a monsoon storm stay home or inside the building where you are until the rains and lightning have passed. When indoors, do not touch any wires or plumbing inside a building. Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using corded telephones or any electrical appliance.
- If you get caught driving during the storm find a safe place to park off the road like a parking lot, turn off your lights and wait until the rain has passed. This will reduce your chances of having a weather related accident and increase you visibility to see flooded roadways.
- Stay away from downed power lines. If a power line comes into contact with your vehicle, remain inside the vehicle until help arrives. Do not attempt to get out of the vehicle – that is the safest place for you to be. By stepping out of the vehicle, your body can become the pathway for electricity to reach the ground, causing severe bodily harm and possibly electrocution. Use a cellular phone, if available, to notify emergency services of your exact location

**When in doubt, wait it out!**