



Fire Department

April 10, 2013

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MEDIA ALERT MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT WATER SAFETY MESSAGE

WHAT: Water safety message

WHO: Milwaukee Fire Department Dive Rescue Team

WHEN: Immediately

WHERE: Local waterways, flood control channel, rivers, and streams.

DETAILS: The Milwaukee Fire Department would like to remind everyone to be careful around water this time of year. As flooding begins, dangerous conditions can develop quickly. Our Dive Rescue Team has some recommendations to keep you and your family safe.

Flood Safety Information

- Stay out of flood control channels, rivers, streams and other waterways.
- Moving water is very dangerous. Just 6 inches of fast moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Do not drive through standing water. Depths can be deceiving.
- Know where your children are. Flooded channels are not play areas. Children 5 to 15 years of age comprise the highest percentage of swift water victims.
- Be mindful of undercut banks since they are often not visible and could collapse suddenly.
- Concrete areas adjacent to waterways are slippery and often a cause for accidental entry into swift water.
- Do not follow pets into water of flood control areas.

What to do if you see a victim fall into the water

- Do not go into the water after the victim.
- Do not try to pull out the victim with your hands, rope or similar device.
- Do not attach anything to yourself and toss it to the victim into the water. The force of the current will pull you in.
- Immediately call 911.
- Give accurate information about where you saw the victim go in.
- If possible throw a flotation device to the victim. i.e. basketball or other unattached object.

Keep in Mind

- Swimming skills have nothing to do with surviving a swift water emergency. The current is so strong that even highly skill swimmers can get swept to their deaths.
- Water moving at 12 mph exerts a force of 540 lbs of pressure.

STAY AWAY FROM WATER AND STAY SAFE!!

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