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State Agencies Urge Hoosiers to Practice Caution While Traveling Through Flood Waters

With heavy rainfall expected this weekend due to Hurricane Ike, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), Indiana State Police (ISP) and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) encourage Hoosiers to practice extreme caution while traveling along area roadways with standing water.

If you are driving during a flood it is important to be cautious. Roads may be washed out, unexpected potholes could be covered in water, and your car could float away in only a foot of water. If you must drive during a flood, you are encouraged to follow these tips:

- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded-out roadway ahead, turn around and find another route to get to your destination.
- If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.
- Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, do not attempt to cross a flooded road. Water can conceal dips, or worse, floodwaters can damage roadways, washing away the entire road surface and a significant amount of ground.
- Remember, 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- One foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUV's and pick-ups.

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