



## **SAFETY TIPS FOR TRAVELERS DURING DISASTERS**

Following are safety tips from the American Red Cross for travels during a disaster. This information should be kept in the glove compartment of your car. In any emergency situation, the most important rule is to remain calm.

### **HURRICANE: EVACUATE EARLY**

- Flooding can begin well before a hurricane nears land. Plan to evacuate early, and keep a full tank of fuel in your vehicle during the hurricane season.
- Learn the best evacuation route before a storm forms, and make arrangements with friends or relatives inland to stay with them until the storm has passed.
- Never attempt to drive during a hurricane or until the “all-clear” is given after the storm.
- Flash flooding can still occur after a hurricane has passed. Avoid driving on coastal and low-lying roads. Storm surge and hurricane-caused flooding are erratic and may occur with little or no warning.

### **FLOOD: GET OUT OF THE CAR**

- Never attempt to drive through water on a road. Water can be deeper than it appears and water levels can rise very quickly.
- Most cars will be swept away by less than two feet of moving water. Many hurricane deaths are caused by people attempting to drive through flood waters.
- Floodwaters also can erode roadways, and a missing section of road - even a missing bridge - will not be visible with water running over the area.
- Avoid walking through flood waters as only two inches of moving water will sweep most people off their feet.

### **ALWAYS FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF AUTHORITIES**

- Listen to radio or television for the latest National Weather Service bulletins on severe weather for the area in which you will drive.
- If evacuation is recommended, move quickly but calmly, following instructions as to route to be used, evacuation shelter to be sought, and other directions.

**For more information contact the American Red Cross Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter  
(251) 438-2571  
[www.redcrossalcoast.org](http://www.redcrossalcoast.org)**