



News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Flash floods - advice for drivers**

Motorists are being warned that the inevitable flash floods that come with heavy rain could make driving conditions particularly hazardous.

Road safety charity the IAM is warning that motorists could face torrential rain in the coming days, which means poor driving visibility, difficult car control, slippery road surfaces and increased stopping distances.

IAM chief examiner Peter Rodger said: "A suddenly very wet road surface increases the chances of slipping when braking or steering, which is a problem not just for motorists, but cyclists and motorcyclists too."

In cases of severe flooding, you should reconsider making the journey at all. If it is unavoidable, and you have to drive through deep water, the IAM recommends drivers take the following precautions:

- Drive on the highest section of the road and don't set off if a vehicle is approaching you.
- Leave time and space to avoid swamping other cars and pedestrians.

- Drive slowly and keep going once you have started - make sure you have a clear run. In manual car, keep the revs high by "slipping the clutch" (which means the clutch is not fully engaged) all the time you are in the water.
- If you can't see where you are going to come out of the water, think twice about starting to drive into it.
- Under no circumstances in deep water take your foot off the accelerator, as this could allow water to travel up the exhaust pipe.
- Once you're out of the water, dry the brakes before you need them. The best way is to lightly apply the brake as you drive along for a few seconds, after checking nothing is following you too closely.

Mr Rodger added: "Another thing to consider when driving in wet conditions is stopping distances, as roads are slippery and it will take longer to stop. Drop your speed and give yourself more time to slow down. Visibility will be lower during heavy rain, so make a point of turning on your headlights whenever you need to use your windscreen wipers. Use your air conditioning to help clear the windows."

ENDS

**Notes to editors:**

1. Peter Rodger is the IAM's chief examiner
2. The IAM is the UK's largest independent road safety charity, dedicated to improving standards and safety in driving, motorcycling and cycling. The commercial division of the IAM operates through its occupational driver training company IAM Drive & Survive. The IAM has more than 200 local volunteer groups and over 100,000 members in the UK and Ireland. It is best known for the advanced driving test and the advanced driving, motorcycling and cycling courses. Its policy and research division offers advice and expertise on road safety.

ENDS ALL

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