

## **Are You Prepared for Rising Waters?**

As officers in the USPHS, we have the opportunity to lead by example in natural disaster preparedness

## **Know Your Risk**

- Check your home and work location risk:
  - <u>https://msc.fema.qov/portal/</u> <u>search</u>
- Stay up to date with accurate resources:
  - Local news and media
  - NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)
     All Hazards receiver
  - USGS's WaterAlert system
- Know the Difference
  - Flood Watch be aware conditions are favorable for flooding
  - Flood Warning time to take action and move to higher ground, flood is happening
- Protect Yourself with Flood Insurance
  - https://www.fema.gov/nationalflood-insurance-program

## **Be Ready to Roll**

- Have your uniform ready at all times
- Take care of the 6 P's
  - People
  - Pets and livestock
  - Prescriptions
  - Papers hard copy or electronic
  - Personal supplies food, water, first aid, cash
  - Priceless/irreplaceable items
- Evacuation Route
  - Have more than one
- Place to Stay
- Plan Your Communication
  - Cell phone, radio, NOAA
     Weather Radio
  - Batteries and chargers
  - Land lines likely to be out of service
- Practice Your Plan
  - Include all members of household

## **Don't Chance It!**

- When in doubt...
  TURN AROUND
- Flash floods are the #1
   cause of weather
   related deaths in the
   U.S., responsible for
   ~ 200 deaths per year
- 6 inches moving water knocks you down and 12 inches sweeps your car away
- If flood waters rise around your car
  - Water NOT moving abandon car
  - Water moving do NOT abandon car
- Over 50% of the time, drownings are vehicle related

"Prepare for Emergencies – Floods." Ready, https://www.ready.gov/floods Accessed 7 May 2017; "America's PrepareAthon! – Flood." Fema, https://community.fema.gov/hazard/flood-en\_us/be-smart?lang=en\_US Accessed 7 May 2017; "How To Prepare For A Flood." Ready, www.ready.gov/prepare Accessed 7 May 2017; "Flood Damage and Fatality Statistics." Flood Safety, http://floodsafety.com/national/life/statistics.htm Accessed 7 May 2017.