



# Traffic Alert

Houston District  
P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386  
713-802-5071  
FAX 713-802-5075  
Cell 281-686-9853

12-01                      1/9/2012                      Houston  
Public Information Office                      (713) 802-5071

## **HEAVY RAINS PRESENT DRIVING HAZARDS AS NUMEROUS ROADWAYS UNDERWATER**

*TxDOT URGES CAUTION, REMINDS DRIVERS "TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN"*

(Houston) – As heavy rains pass through the Houston area, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District is urging drivers to use extreme caution. Large rain events can create hazardous driving conditions on roads and bridges. Traffic signals, road signage and travel lanes may be damaged. Travel during heavy wind and rain is strongly discouraged due to the risk of flooding, debris and down power lines.

Motorists should never cross flooded roadways. Flash flooding is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in Texas. As little as six inches of water can float some vehicles. If drivers encounter a flooded road, Turn Around, Don't Drown.

- Never try to walk, swim or drive through swift water.
- Stay informed about weather conditions when you are driving.
- If your vehicle stalls in deep water, leave it and move to higher ground if you can do so safely.
- Don't move, tamper with or drive around barriers blocking a low-water crossing. Penalties range from \$200 to \$1,000 and/or two years in jail.

TxDOT district personnel and equipment are responding to areas of high waters. Roads will be cleared and reopened as quickly as possible. Drivers should be on the lookout for TxDOT employees and emergency personnel along roadways affected by the storm.

The department is currently monitoring all state roadways within the district and watching the following closures due to high water: SH 288 at IH 610 South Loop (all mainlanes), US 59 Southwest Freeway Northbound ramp to IH 610 West Loop (two mainlanes), US 59 Eastex Freeway Northbound at Polk (two mainlanes), US 59 Eastex Southbound at IH 610 N. Loop (one mainlane), IH 610 South Loop Eastbound exit ramp to SH 288, and IH 610 South Loop Westbound exit ramp to SH 288.

Drivers are encouraged to monitor weather and travel updates from local safety officials. Road conditions are also available from TxDOT Houston via twitter @txdothoustonpio.