

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

NORTH CAROLINA



Department of Police

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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JPD Recommends Caution for Drivers in Stormy Weather July 14, 2010

Officers of the Jacksonville Police Department have responded to a number of calls in response to the stormy weather conditions in the Jacksonville area.

“The best advice we can offer motorists is to allow for more travel time” stated Sergeant Chuck James of the Traffic Division. “You should plan to drive at a slower pace than normal when the roads are wet. Keep in mind that traffic is likely to be moving slower as well. There's also the possibility that your preplanned route may be flooded.”

JPD offers the following tips for safe driving in stormy conditions:

- Only travel in heavy rain when necessary, and always leave extra time to safely reach your destination.
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- **Brake earlier and with less force** than you would normally. Not only does this increase the stopping distance between you and the car in front of you, it also lets the driver behind you know that you're slowing down.
- If you see large puddles or standing water ahead, **drive around it or choose a different route**. It could be covering holes, ditches or other hazards that are no longer visible to you. Additionally water splashing up into your vehicles engine compartment could damage its internal electrical systems.
- While braking in heavy rain, **tap on your brake pedal lightly** to dry off some of the water on your rotors to ensure effective braking.
- **Turn on your headlights**, even when there's a light sprinkle. It helps you see the road, and more importantly, it helps other motorists see you. It also the law.

- **Give large trucks or buses extra distance.** Their extra-large tires can create enough spray to block your vision completely. Avoid passing one if it is practical.
- If you start to **hydroplane, don't brake suddenly or turn the wheel**, or you might spin into a skid. Release the gas pedal slowly and steer straight until the car regains traction. If you must brake, tap the brake pedal.

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