

Seminole County Fire Department Information Bulletin #24-078



To: All Fire Department Members

From: Fire Department Administration

Date: October 9, 2024

Title: Vehicle Response/Operation In Flood Waters

Historically, the Seminole County Fire Department has based judgments relating to continued response during significant flood water events on several factors. Of those factors, water depth is a significant consideration.

Standard Engines, Towers and Squads have air intakes for the diesel engine located below the floorboard. It is not recommended while driving through flooded streets to exceed a water depth that is above the bottom step of the apparatus. While responding in high water situations, it is best practice to place the apparatus in a safe location and request a high-water vehicle or boat.

For Rescues and Staff vehicles, please make every attempt to avoid water levels above the bottom of the wheel (rim or the top of the lowest portion of the tire). In all cases, water level to the bottom of the hub (center of rim) should be avoided.

The TSUs have a water fording capability of 50" and should be utilized when available and practical.

When operating or staging a vehicle in a flood prone area, please make every effort to identify alternative routing that considers the highest elevation available.

Make every effort to stay on travel ways consisting of improved surfaces and take care and caution when proceeding on those areas that are not. Be cautious of voids existing or created below grade due to water.