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CITY CONNECTIONS

Weekly Municipal Column

Department of the Week:

Planning Department

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The City of
Brevard
North Carolina

Flood Safety for Motorists

Transylvania County receives an abundant amount of rainfall on a regular basis producing lush forests and ample rivers and streams. Surface water flooding is often caused by periods of heavy rainfall, but also blocked drains and burst water mains can generate local flooding.

The best way to ensure your safety is to stay off the roads when driving conditions are especially wet and hazardous, but what do you do when driving in flooded conditions is unavoidable? Remembering these easy tips can help you weather the storm:

- Turn your headlights on when visibility is reduced; it's the law.
- Leave twice as much space between you and the car in front. It takes longer to stop on wet roads.
- If your steering feels light due to hydroplaning, ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually.
- If you cannot walk on water, you cannot drive on it either. Avoid water that is moving or more than 4 inches deep. Moving water is very powerful and your car could be swept away.
- Avoid slamming on the brakes. Although hitting the brakes is a typical response in an emergency, it will only further upset the vehicle's balance and make it difficult to regain control.
- If you do get stuck in floodwater, it is usually best to wait in the car and call for help rather than attempt to get out. Floating debris and down power lines increase your chance of injury, but if you must flee your vehicle exit through an open window and swim at a slight angle with the current until you make it to higher ground.

If you have questions about special flood hazard areas in the City of Brevard, please contact the Planning Department at 828-885-5630. If you have an emergency or you are reporting an emergency condition, call 911 for an emergency responders nearest you.