



THE DANGERS OF ENTERING FLOODWATER!



Although entering floodwater may seem necessary, floodwater can pose various risks. It is important to consider the following:

Hidden danger

Although you may think the water is free of hazards, be careful. There may be hidden rocks, open manholes or potholes which could cause you to become trapped or lose your footing.



Fast flowing water

Floodwater can be very dangerous when it is flowing quickly, only 15 centimetres can be enough to knock you off your feet. You may not be able to accurately judge the depth of fast flowing water, which could lead to those entering it getting into difficulty or even being swept away.

Dangerous objects

Floodwater can pick up loose objects and carry them along. Sharp objects could potentially cause injury. There may be trees and branches in the water which could cause you to become tangled in them.



Contamination

Runoff from fields which may contain pesticides, fertilizers and chemicals such as oil and petrol. Floodwater may also contain animal waste and raw sewage from sewers which can cause illness and infections.



Electricity



Streetlights, traffic lights and CCTV cameras will have electricity supplies which may still be live. A shock from these could cause serious injury or even death.

It is important to wash your hands with soap and water frequently if you're dealing with a flood event. If you have any cuts that have been exposed to flood water, the wounds need to be cleaned and a waterproof plaster or bandage needs to be applied. Any toys or items exposed to floodwater should be cleaned and disinfected. Do not eat or drink anything that may be contaminated by floodwater.