

Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services
The Honourable Neil Roberts
14/10/2011

Floodwater incidents prompt plea - don't venture into water

Reports of residents driving through floodwaters last night have once again prompted a plea from emergency services about venturing into flooded waterways.

Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Neil Roberts is reminding Queensland residents torrential rain can result in creeks and roadways becoming flooded, making them deadly to cross by foot or in a car.

"Yesterday's events again prove you should never attempt to drive across or swim in floodwaters; it's a simple message but one all Queenslanders should pay attention to now to avoid a tragedy", Mr Roberts said.

"Emergency crews attended several incidents across the State in the last 24 hours where residents were stranded after driving across a flooded road."

Mr Roberts said paramedics transported an 80-year-old man to Kingaroy General Hospital after his car was washed off the road at Stuart Valley Drive at Haly Creek near Kingaroy around 8.30pm last night.

The car was partially submerged and the driver was taken to hospital for assessment.

Firefighters were called to Illawarra Street at Calamvale around 6.15pm and Paradise Road at Larapinta around 6.40pm in South Brisbane to reports of multiple vehicles stuck across flooded roadways. All vehicles and occupants were removed safely and no injuries were reported.

Fire crews also responded to reports of multiple vehicles stuck after driving across flooded roadways at West Street and Drayton Road around 6.15pm and South Street and Mackenzie Street, in Toowoomba around 6.30pm. All vehicles and occupants were removed safely.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) Commissioner Lee Johnson said floodwaters should not be underestimated.

"Venturing into a flooded waterway is one of the most dangerous things you can do," Mr Johnson said.

"It only takes a small amount of fast running flood water to knock a person off their feet and vehicles can easily be swept off flooded roads.

Mr Roberts said the message was clear, stay well away from flooded creeks and causeways.

"Think about the consequences of your actions and don't risk your life or the lives of others by driving or walking through floodwaters," Mr Roberts said.

"Parents must also keep a close eye on their kids around flooded areas. Children may think

playing in bodies of water is fun but it can be deadly."

Mr Roberts said anyone who finds themselves or others in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters should call triple zero (000) immediately.

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