



On the Water Front

July 2018 | A Message from John Balliew, P.E., President/CEO

Flood safety is everyone's duty: Turn Around Don't Drown

Armed with speed and unpredictability, a flash flood can damage or destroy anything in its path. Adverse weather often makes drivers skittish, which contributes to bad decisions on the road. With the arrival of monsoon season, El Paso Water once again urges El Pasoans to Turn Around Don't Drown before taking a chance on a flooded roadway.

Floods are responsible for more deaths each year than any other kind of severe weather event in Texas, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. About 50 percent of these deaths occur in vehicles driven into floodwaters. This is why we partner annually with the El Paso Fire Department, the National Weather Service, the El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 and the Drowning Prevention Coalition to persuade drivers and pedestrians to avoid flooded areas.

When a storm strikes swiftly, life can change in a flash. Make an effort to be weather aware. Find out if adverse weather is in the forecast and plan for it. At night, the danger from flash floods becomes harder to recognize.

- Don't drive or walk on flooded streets.
- Take alternate routes if yours is flooded.
- Never drive around traffic barricades.
- Avoid streets where curbs are not visible.

Never underestimate the power of water. It only takes 6 inches of moving water to knock an adult off his or her feet. Just 12 inches of rushing water can carry away a small car.

Turn Around Don't Drown. Please spread the word.



El Paso Water, the El Paso Fire Department, the National Weather Service, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and the Drowning Prevention Coalition are urging residents to take important safety precautions during summer monsoons.



The Bear Ridge Channel was changed to increase its capacity, and energy dissipaters were added to reduce the speed of stormwater gushing from the Franklin Mountains.

10 years of flood control

Since EPWater took over stormwater management from the City of El Paso 10 years ago, we have been delivering results.

We have added more than 100 million gallons of stormwater capacity throughout El Paso, keeping stormwater off Interstate 10 and away from homes and businesses.

Major completed projects include:

- The Northeast Channel 2 project added capacity with larger culverts and concrete-lined channels in Northeast El Paso. Cost: \$14.6 million
- The Magnolia Stormwater Projects added a new pump station and a pipeline to the Rio Grande in Central El Paso. Cost: \$25.2 million
- The Gateway Ponds Project added nearly 50 million gallons of water capacity to Central El Paso. Cost: \$18 million
- The Lee Trevino Drainage Improvements project upgraded underground drainage to reduce street flooding in East El Paso. Cost: \$3.7 million
- The Basin G Excavation project added stormwater and wetland capacity in Mission Valley. Cost: \$2.6 million
- The Austin Pond project added 2.7 million gallons of water capacity and a recreational area in Central El Paso. Cost: \$2.2 million

Our stormwater work continues this year with the Thomas Manor Park Pond and Pump Station in Mission Valley, the Silver Springs Arroyo Dam in Northwest and Copia Pond in Central El Paso. With each completed project, EPWater aims to boost public safety and protect neighboring properties.

For more information on stormwater safety, sandbags and projects, please click [here](#).

