SAVE YOURSELF!

DON'T DROWN!

TEXAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION 2014 CALENDAR

Poster by: Sydney • 1st place grade 6-8
Meet TexAnna TADDpole. She is a very special taddpole. TexAnna is the Official Mascot of the TFMA's Turn Around Don't Drown public awareness and outreach program.

TexAnna congratulates the TADD Poster Contest Winners:

JAN: Vanessa       JAN: Dania
FEB: Avery         AUG: Estrella
MAR: Charlotte     SEPT: Bethany
APR: Mia           OCT: Sydney
MAY: Vanessa       NOV: Alexandra
JUN: Manuel        DEC: Denise

Note: The TADD Poster Contest was part of the City of Austin’s Flood Awareness Week in March 2013. TFMA sponsored the ribbons and prizes for the second, third and fourth place winners.

Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) is the leading resource for floodplain management professionals in Texas. We work to build partnerships with federal, state and local agencies as well as other professional organizations and associations. TFMA supports comprehensive non-structural management of the state’s floodplains and related water resources. We strive to educate the public about the risk of living in the floodplain, the need for flood insurance, and the need for hazard mitigation activities to break the cycle of rebuilding unwise development in our valuable waterways. Joining TFMA affords members the opportunity to earn “national” Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) status through the Texas chapter and to continue professional growth through training and educational opportunities.

TFMA’s Focus
TFMA believes that through coordinated, well-informed efforts, the public and private sectors can:

- Reduce loss of human life and property damage resulting from flooding,
- Preserve the natural and cultural values of floodplains,
- Return valuable floodplains to their natural state, and
- Avoid actions that exacerbate flooding.

Visit the TFMA website at: www.tfma.org for more information

TFMA Proudly Sponsors
TURN AROUND
DON'T DROWN

EACH YEAR, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. **WHY?** The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN.** You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

**FOLLOW THESE SAFETY RULES:**

- **MONITOR** the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, **GET TO HIGHER GROUND.** Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- **AVOID AREAS ALREADY FLOODED,** especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. **NEVER** drive through flooded roadways. **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN** If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

**FLASH FLOODS**

Except for heat related fatalities, more deaths occur from flooding than any other hazard. **WHY?** Most people fail to realize the power of water. For example, six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet.

While the number of fatalities can vary dramatically with weather conditions from year to year, the national 30-year average for flood deaths is 127. That compares with a 30-year average of 73 deaths for lightning, 65 for tornadoes and 16 for hurricanes.

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DATA ALSO SHOWS:**

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related,
- The majority of victims are males, and
- Flood deaths affect all age groups.

**MOST FLASH FLOODS ARE CAUSED BY SLOW-MOVING THUNDERSTORMS,** thunderstorms that move repeatedly over the same area or heavy rains from tropical storms and hurricanes. These floods can develop within minutes or hours depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions and ground cover.

**FLASH FLOODS CAN ROLL BOULDERS,** tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides.

Occasionally, **FLOATING DEBRIS OR ICE CAN ACCUMULATE** at a natural or man-made obstruction and restrict the flow of water. Water held back by the ice jam or debris dam can cause flooding upstream. Subsequent flash flooding can occur downstream if the obstruction should suddenly release.

More information can be obtained at http://www.srh.weather.gov/srh/tadd/
Save Yourself Turn Around Don't Drown !!!
TexAnna Tadpole’s Tip:

NEVER drive through flooded roadways or attempt to cross a low water crossing or bridge when water is flowing over the pavement. Always remember to “Turn Around Don’t Drown”, it may save your life and the life of those most precious to you.
Save Yourself

Stop! In the name of your ones, don't cross slow water crossings.

I Aolanda of the Sea say "Turn Around Don't Drown!"

Don't Cross!
TEXANNA TADPOLE’S TIP:
Make sure your family has an evacuation plan and a family emergency kit which includes food, water, clothing, medications, important papers and other items necessary for survival. Have a communication plan so if your family is separated during a disaster, you will be able to contact each other and reconnect in a safe place.
Save Yourself! Turn Around.

Don't Drown!

TV WEATHER
TEXANNA TADDPOLE’S TIP:

When possible, communities will attempt to barricade or block flooded roads or bridges, but again, it is impossible to barricade all flooded roads and bridges. It has been documented that some motorists will drive around barricades and into flooded roads only to find themselves and others fighting for their life in swift flowing flood waters.
Save yourself! Turn around—Don't Drown!
**TexAnna Tadpole’s Tip:**

Be very cautious when walking or playing near a flooded stream. Stream banks can be very muddy and slippery and could cave in causing you to fall into rapidly flowing water. Especially watch the smaller kids and pets too!
Save Yourself!
Turn Around Don't Drown
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<td>Buy and use a NOAA All Hazards Radio in your home. Also consider a portable battery powered NOAA radio for use in your vehicle during road trips and family outings. NOAA radio will provide you with current weather updates, flood watches and warnings and much more!</td>
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**MAY 2014**

- **CINCO DE MAYO**: May 4th
- **Mother’s Day**: May 11th
- **Memorial Day**: May 25th
- ** Armed Force’s Day**: May 16th
- **Full Moon**: May 6th
- **Last Quarter**: May 20th
- **New Moon**: May 28th
TURN AROUND
DON'T DROWN
TexAnna Tadpole’s Tip:

Now that summer is here, adults and kids turn to the outdoors for fun and recreation. When camping, never park your travel trailer or place your tent too close to a flowing creek or stream. Always be weather-wise when outdoors and if you notice water starting to rise, seek higher ground immediately.
SAVE YOURSELF!

TURN AROUND,
DON'T DROWN!
Texanna Taddpole’s Tip:
Never swim, tube or boat in a flooded stream. Swift currents can quickly pull you under and fast moving debris such as uprooted trees in the water can strike you and make it impossible for you to reach the stream bank.
Save yourself.
Turn around!
Don't drown.
TEXANNA TADDPOLE’S TIP:
Motorists should be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers. Wet black pavement and flowing water often look the same at night, especially when it is raining and vision is impaired.
Save Yourself!
Turn Around
Don't Drown
Texanna Tadpole’s Tip:
This is the peak of hurricane season in Texas. If a storm approaches Texas, monitor weather conditions and be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so. Remember, when these big storms hit, their effects are far reaching. Inland areas away from the coast can expect high damaging winds, tornadoes, heavy rain and flooding.
During a flash flood event, roads, bridges and low water crossings will be covered by very fast moving floodwater. Often times, the bridge or road bed is washed out creating extremely dangerous conditions.
Save Yourself.
TexAnna Tadpole's Tip:
Many cities and counties have made attempts to mark low water crossings and roads and bridges at risk of flooding with signs and streamside flood gages. Some even have blinking lights activated when the road or bridge is flooded. But there are so many creeks and streams crossing roads in Texas that it is impossible to mark or identify all at risk roads and bridges.
Turn Around

Don't Drown
**TexAnna Tadpole’s Tip:**

It only takes about 18 inches of flowing water to cause a vehicle to float and most often wash off the flooded road into very swift water with deadly results. If your vehicle is caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.