



Vehicle Entrapment

More than 43,000 motor vehicle incidents in Missouri involved vehicles leaving the roadway, 400 of which resulted in fatalities.

Greater than 300 incidents in Missouri involved vehicles in moving or standing water, about 1% resulted in fatalities. As little as 1 to 2 feet of water is enough to float a vehicle off its wheels, flooded roadways should be avoided.

The best chances of preventing injury or death when entrapped in your vehicle, either off the road or in water is to be familiar with the steps and tools necessary for a successful self-extrication. Rescue tools must readily accessible to the driver.

If Your Vehicle Becomes Stranded In Moving Water, or a Body of Water

- Stay calm.
- Time is critical - The decision to escape must occur as the vehicle enters the water.
- Use a predetermined reference point to get oriented and locate your rescue tool.
- Remove or cut each occupant's seatbelt to ensure everyone can leave the vehicle.
- Break a side window using the rescue tool.
- Once an escape route is established, evacuate children oldest to youngest, then adults, until everyone exits the vehicle.



If Your Vehicle is Off the Road

- Stay calm and review your escape plan.
- Even if the doors are jammed, unlock the doors and lower the windows.
- Examine each vehicle opening to identify potential exit points.
- If the vehicle is inverted, use a predetermined reference point to get oriented and locate your rescue tool.
- Remove or cut each occupant's seatbelt to ensure everyone can leave the vehicle.
- Break a side door window using the rescue tool.
- Once an escape route is established, evacuate children oldest to youngest, then adults until everyone safely exits the vehicle.
- If not able to self-rescue, use your phone to call for help.
- Honk the vehicle horn if it works, if not, gain the attention of anyone nearby by yelling, blowing a whistle or pounding on the vehicle's windows or roof.



Missouri Coalition
for **Roadway Safety**

