



Vehicle Submersion Fact Sheet

QUICK FACTS

- 400** North Americans on average drown in vehicles every year
- 10%** of drownings occur inside vehicles
- 1 minute** is all the time you have to safely exit a sinking vehicle

HOW TO ESCAPE A SUBMERGED VEHICLE

- 1 – **SEAT BELTS** OFF or CUT
- 2 – **WINDOW** OPEN or BREAK bottom corner, move children to window with you
- 3 – **OUT** window (children oldest to youngest)

DO NOT panic.

DO NOT touch your cell phone.

DO NOT open the door, this will cause water to rush into the car.

SAFETY TIPS & FAMILY SUBMERSION DRILL

Talk to your family about exactly what to do if your vehicle ends up in a body of water and review the topic regularly. Remember, if your vehicle begins to submerge in water, you have 1 minute to escape before the water pressure becomes too great.

Doing regular “submersion drills” with your family can help them be prepared when a real emergency takes place. Here is what we suggest;

- 1 – Pull over the car unexpectedly in a safe location off of traffic ways
- 2 – Announce that the vehicle has gone into water
- 3 – Remove seat belts and move to designated window for exiting
- 4 – Window down (roll down or pretend to break with resqme tool in case electrical system is no longer working in vehicle)
- 5 – Pretend to crawl out the window (*please do not allow children to crawl out of the window as they may fall and become injured*)

NEVER drive through water! It only takes a few inches of water to sweep a vehicle off the road. Automobile accidents can also result in the vehicle leaving the road and entering a body of water.

[Watch a self-rescue from a submerged vehicle](#)

ALWAYS keep at least one resqme™ window breaker/seat belt cutter tool in your vehicle in an easy to reach location securely fastened using a zip tie or on your keys if you have a keyed ignition. ([order tools here](#)) We recommend zip tying a tool within reach of each passenger seat so each passenger can get themselves out if necessary. Attach a Submersion Instruction Key Tag with your resqme™ tool so you can refer to it in an emergency.



[Learn how to use a resqme™ emergency safety tool](#)

IMPORTANT WARNING: *Window-breaking tools do NOT work on laminated glass, they only work on tempered glass*.*

Each window in your vehicle should have a sticker indicating what type of glass. In emergency situations, you may not be able to recall. Even if your car has laminated glass* on the front passenger windows, it is likely that it has tempered glass on the back seat passenger windows. Be prepared. Know what windows have tempered glass in your vehicle and mark them with a special sticker. More resources below.

[AAA's list of vehicles that have laminated glass windows on doors.](#)

[Why knowing the type of car windows you have could save your life](#)

For more information on how to keep your family safe visit www.KidsAndCars.org.

***Laminated glass** will crack but remain together due to the plastic layer that is baked **between** the two pieces of **glass**. **Tempered glass** breaks into smaller pieces so you can get out of a vehicle. Most windshields of vehicles have laminated glass because in case there is a crash it helps keep occupants in the vehicle making a crash much more survivable. In general, most vehicles have tempered glass in side door windows especially in the rear doors. *But, some makes and models do have laminated glass in the front driver's and passenger door windows, back windows and the roof.*