



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

Turn Around Don't Drown®

IN ILLINOIS IT'S NO SECRET that the weather can be our friend and foe, sometimes even in the same day. Just within the past couple of months it was in the 60s one day and then 40 degrees colder only a few days later. Temperatures drop, storms roll in, and depending on where you are, Mother Nature can invoke treacherous conditions in minutes. Winter weather is unpredictable, so being prepared is something we must do for ourselves and our communities we serve.

In December 2015 Illinois experienced significant flooding due to high amounts of rain in a short amount of time. Buildings were flooded and damaged, roadways became impassable throughout the state, and once the water did subside, significant work had to be performed to clean up debris so that roads were passable and drainage ways could function.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has some excellent resources available for local governments to use to educate the public on the dangers of flooding.

The NWS "Turn Around Don't Drown®" campaign offers everything from printed materials to public service announcement in the form of audio and video clips.

We encourage township officials to go to NWS's webpage and review the free resources available for your use: <http://tadd.weather.gov>. Whether it's printing off brochures and making them available to the public and/or school children, using signage suggestions, or utilizing one of the many public service announcements, your efforts in helping to educate the public could save lives.

One suggestion you may want to consider is to partner with your local radio station and play one of the public service announcements available from the NWS. You could record an introduction to the piece (i.e. "This is XYZ Township Highway Commissioner John Doe reminding you to be mindful of spring flooding events and Turn Around Don't Drown®.")

The following resources are available at <http://tadd.weather.gov>:

- Turn Around Don't Drown® PSA (Video)
- Flash Flood Safety in a Car (Video)
- Turn Around Don't Drown® Story About Loss of Life (Video)
- Kyle Bush, NASCAR Champion PSA (Audio)
- Low Water Crossings: The Hidden Danger (Streaming Video)
- Water's Fury (Video)
- Turn Around Don't Drown® PSA (Video)
- Turn Around Don't Drown® (Song)
- Brochures
- Bumper Stickers
- Signs (speak to your county engineer)

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Happy New Year!

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7891 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.



Annual Renewal Packets

TOIRMA will be mailing Annual Renewal Packets to each of our member contacts during the month of January. If you are that contact person, please review the contents of the packet. If you are not the contact person, please ask your contact person to make sure the review and response is completed.

Each TOIRMA Member (at least the supervisor and highway commissioner) should review and send back the requested information. Packets include: (1) Comprehensive General Liability Questionnaire, (2) listing of the Values for Vehicles; Inland Marine Equipment; and Buildings/Contents, and (3) listing of Estimated Payroll. **Your coverage is dependent on the accuracy of this information, so your reply is key.** Also, included in the packet this year is your Intergovernmental Cooperation Contract. There will be two contracts in the packet, and both should be signed (one returned to TOIRMA and the other kept for your files). Renewal packets are due to TOIRMA by March 1, 2017.