



Getting Out of A Submerged Vehicle:

- 11,000 accidents occur each year where a car ends up in water.
- The most important thing you can do in this situation is to stay calm.
- As soon as you hit the water, open your window. This is your best chance of escape. Usually a car will float for a brief amount of time, which should give you time to get your seatbelt off and then open a window.
- If your power windows won't work or you cannot roll your windows down all the way, attempt to break the glass with your foot, shoulder, or a heavy object such as an antitheft steering wheel lock. Drivers should keep a heavy flashlight or some other tool within easy reach to break the window if their car becomes submerged. You can also purchase a "Rescue Hammer" – specially made to break a car's window.
- If a window will not open, **you will need to wait until the car fills with water before you can open the door.** This is because the water pressure pushing on the outside of the car will be too great until it is equalized.
- Vehicles with engines in front will sink at a steep angle. If the water is fifteen feet or deeper, the vehicle may end up on its roof, upside down. For this reason, you must get out as soon as possible, while the car is still afloat. Depending on the vehicle, floating time will range from a few seconds to a few minutes. The more airtight the car, the longer it floats. Air in the car will be quickly forced out through the trunk and cab. An air bubble is unlikely to remain once the car hits bottom. Get out as early as possible.

Follow this 4 Step Emergency Action Plan

1. Take a Breath
2. Unbuckle your seat belt
3. Roll down your window (or open the door)
4. ESCAPE!

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