



Dear Instructor:

I would like to take a moment to introduce you to the Oklahoma Floodplain Manager's Association (OFMA) "Turn Around Don't Drown" Program.

In Oklahoma we have many low water crossings and other areas on roads that are prone to flooding. Unfortunately, many drivers do not understand the risks that these areas pose to their vehicles and their lives. Often drivers believe they can drive through the water and are swept off the road and may require rescue risking the lives of first responders.

Several years ago, OFMA began a program to educate elementary students regarding this danger through the "Turn Around Don't Drown" Program. The target is 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders but younger children may participate as well. We offer the Turn Around Don't Drown poster contest. The program has been sanctioned by the Oklahoma Department of Education. While younger children can participate in the poster contest cash prizes are awarded only to winning 3rd-5th graders. Each year OFMA produces a calendar of the top posters which they share with your school and students.

Please find the guidelines for the Poster Contest included inside the accompanying pages from the 2025 Calendar. Remember that students are eligible to win cash prizes. It's never too early to start that college fund!

Remember to Submit Artwork to
OFMA
Att: Calendar
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK. 74101-8101

Or Electronically at education@okflood.org

If you would like to schedule a time to meet or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Kimbro, P.E; CFM

OFMA (Region 1 Representative)
Oklahoma Department of Transportation
Bridge Division
200 N.E. 21st
Oklahoma City, OK. 73105
Office: 405.522.0612

TURN AROUND

©Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association



1st Place Poster by

Tia Snyder
Covington Douglas

2025
Calendar

DON'T DRIVE OR DROWN!!

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 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 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, 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.

FLOATING DEBRIS OR ICE CAN ACCUMULATE occasionally 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.



The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates for the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans. We encourage flood-safe development and sound floodplain management practices through education, higher standards, and certification.

OFMA appreciates all the hard work by teachers, parents, and the many others who supported this year's poster contest. The students who entered also deserve our thanks. We hope that by working together to spread the **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**® message, fewer people will be harmed by flood waters in Oklahoma.

This year, more than 351 participants competed for the four statewide awards. This year's winners are:

1ST PLACE TIA SNYDER

Covington Douglas

2ND PLACE ADDABELLE KENDALL

Catalayah Elementary

3RD PLACE EDEN DAVIS

Tulsa Adventist Academy

HONORABLE DANIA AL QANBAHI

Will Rogers Elementary

Special thanks to the following schools for supporting student participation in this year's program:

- ◆ Alexander Elementary
- ◆ Bridge Creek Intermediate
- ◆ Canton Elementary
- ◆ Catalayah Elementary
- ◆ Covington Douglas
- ◆ Creek Elementary
- ◆ First Lutheran Ponca City
- ◆ Frontier Elementary
- ◆ Goodwell Public Schools
- ◆ Holland Hall
- ◆ Jenks Northwest
- ◆ Maryetta School
- ◆ Monte Cassino
- ◆ Oktaha Elementary
- ◆ Porter Consolidated
- ◆ Roosa Elementary
- ◆ Tonkawa Elementary
- ◆ Tulsa Adventist Academy
- ◆ Wesleyan Christian School
- ◆ Will Rogers Elementary

First, second and third place winners receive cash awards in the amount of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. The top 13 posters in the state are published in the OFMA Turn Around Don't Drown® calendar. Each student participant is awarded a certificate of participation. Teachers receive a letter of appreciation.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!!

FLOOD SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

PRIZES

- Must be a student (Grade 3-5) to win.
- \$150 for first prize, \$100 for second prize or \$50 for third prize plus award certificates.
- Certificate of Appreciation for participating students and teachers.
- Media release for winning schools.
- Posters printed in annual Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association calendar.

SUBMITTING ART WORK

- Mail to OFMA, Attn: Calendar, P. O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.
- Drop off at 1437 S Boulder Avenue, Suite 1550, Tulsa OK 74119.
- Submit electronically at education@okflood.org.

JUDGES

- Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) Board

POSTER BASICS

- Use 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper in landscape orientation.
- Must be original art work.
- No copyrighted or syndicated characters or cartoons.
- Show the dangers of driving through flood waters. Include "Turn Around Don't Drown" or "Es Mejor Regresarte que Ahogarte."
- Use bright colors. Markers work Best.
- Due April 1 (in our hands, not post-marked).



This program is part of NOAA National Weather Service Turn Around Don't Drown® campaign and sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST FORM DEADLINE: APRIL 1

Now's your chance to show off your talent, win cash and help Oklahomans with flood awareness.

Name _____

Parents _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

Teacher Name _____

Grade _____

County _____

Parent's
E-mail _____

City _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____

All entries become the property of OFMA. The right to modify any poster for reproduction is reserved. Visit

www.okflood.org for more information.

[CUT OUT AND ATTACH TO POSTER]