

The NOAA Weather Ranger is an educational and outreach product of the Southeast River Forecast Center in Peachtree City, Georgia. The series will be updated periodically to benefit public education in weather safety.

For more information, visit our web page

**[www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc/WeatherRanger](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc/WeatherRanger)**

**also**

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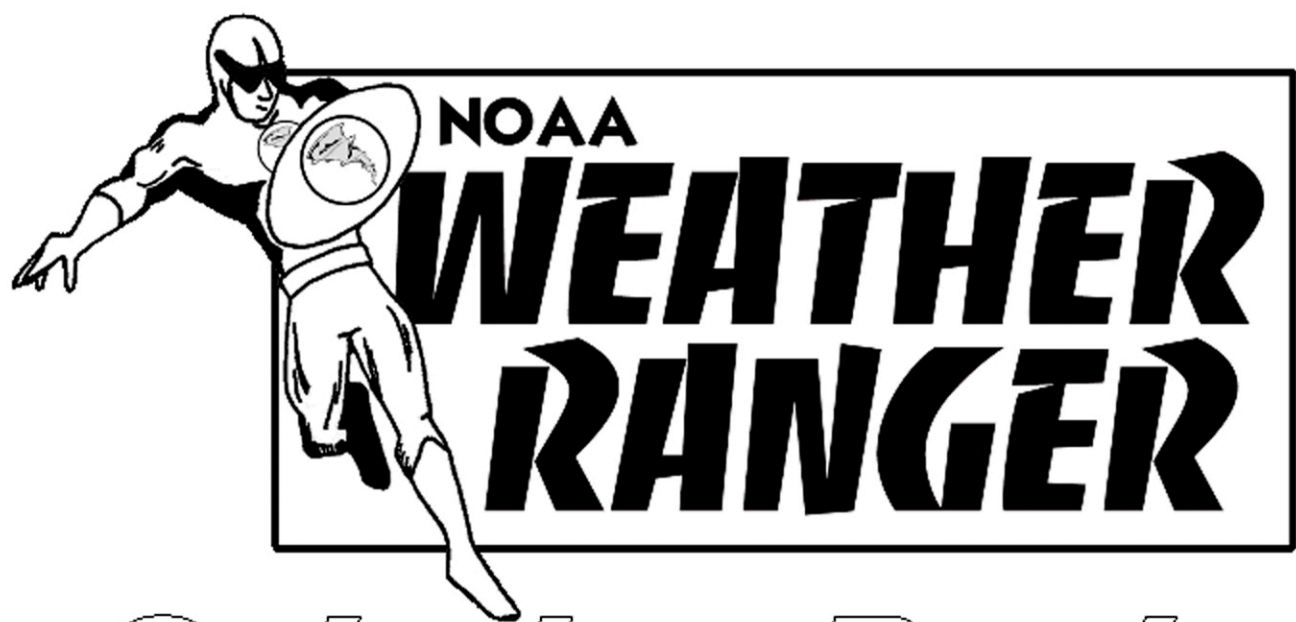
**[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)**

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service  
Southeast River Forecast Center**



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# *Coloring Book & Action Guide*



**NOAA WEATHER RANGER**



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[www.srb.noaa.gov/srhc/WeatherRanger](http://www.srb.noaa.gov/srhc/WeatherRanger)



NOAA

# WEATHER RANGER

EPISODE 1



"TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN"

**T**hroughout the ages, across time and distance, nothing has challenged and influenced mankind more than the weather. Wind and rain, snow and heat, life and death are all in the weather's arsenal. There exists, today, a group of dedicated and driven individuals whose sole purpose is to protect society from weather's darkest dangers. These people wage a continuous war against mankind's *ignorance, apathy*, fear, and blatant disregard for weather's most devastating *consequences*.

**A**s this war rages all around, a champion rises from the ashes of destruction to stand in combat with the battle-scarred men and women who fight for our very lives. This champion, a man of incredible strength and ability, fights for us and for all of those we hold dear. **HE IS THE NOAA WEATHER RANGER!**

## Question:

What do these words mean?

Ignorance

Apathy

Consequences



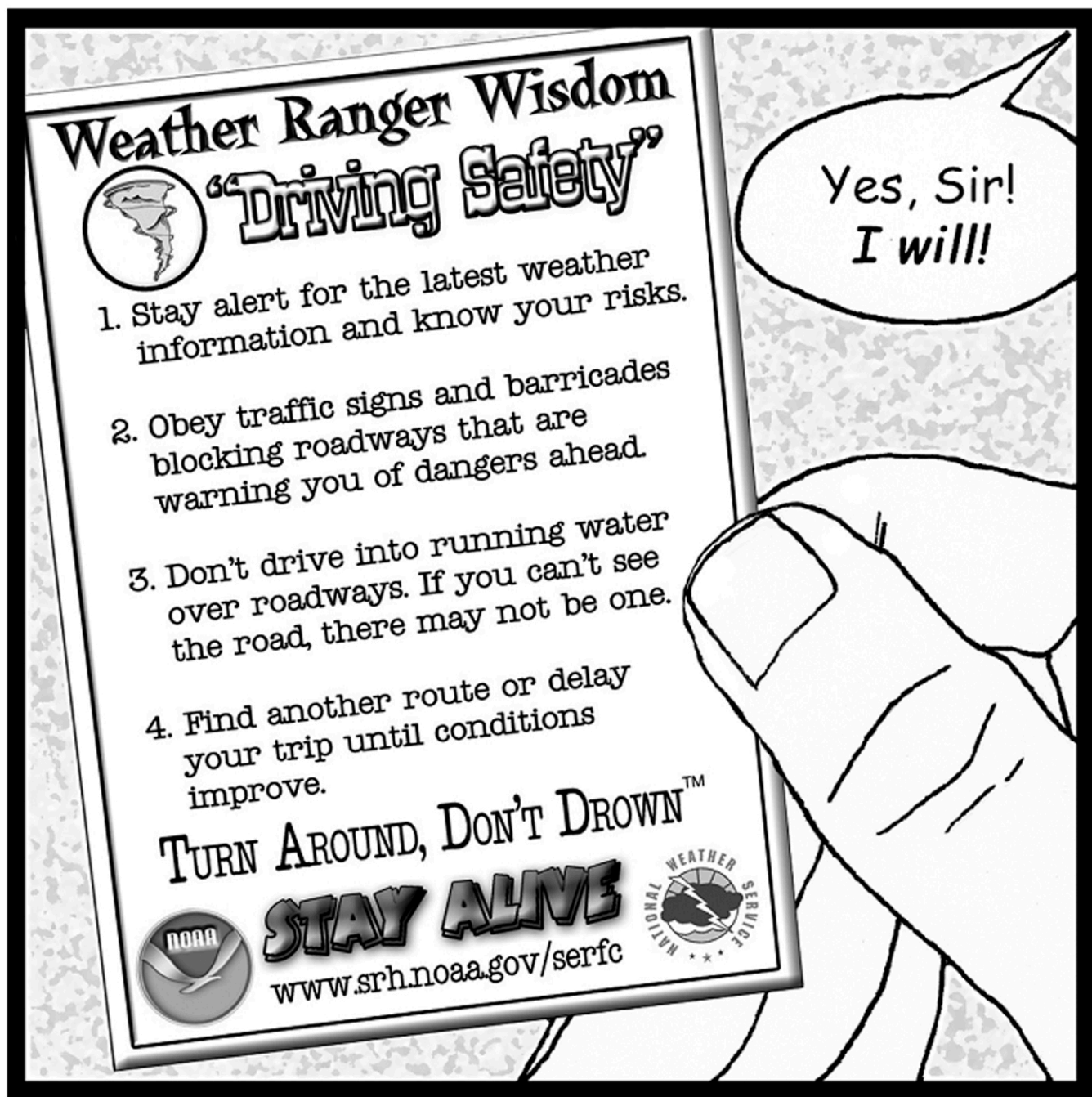
**Answer:**

1. Some real weather rangers are National Weather Service meteorologists and hydrologists, tv meteorologists and weather broadcasters, and local and state police.
2. Some real weather rangers are fire and rescue workers in your local fire department. Many are specifically trained for water and rope rescue.



**Question:**

1. Name 3 things that could happen to cause flooding to occur.
2. You can be one of the very special "Junior Weather Ranger" teammates. What do you think you can do to be one of the team?



**Answer:**

1. Hurricanes or tropical cyclones, heavy thunderstorms, snow melting, ice jams, periods of repeated storm systems, dam or levee break, or a waterway that is dammed either naturally or artificially.

2. To be a Junior Weather Ranger, just learn as much as you can about weather and its dangers and safety rules. Then be ready to tell others when dangerous weather happens. Saving lives is what being part of this team is all about.

# Weather Ranger Wisdom

Talk to your parents and teachers about these safety rules and get as much information as possible from them about what happens to your home, neighborhood, and community during a flood. Most kids who are hurt in floods have been playing alone or with other kids in very dangerous locations. You need to know where these dangerous locations are and what you should do in case there are no parents or other adults around to help you.

**Remember, during any flood or other weather emergency, stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or local television. Information from these sources may save your life.**

The National Weather Service issues **flash flood watches**, **flash flood warnings**, and **flood warnings**. A **flash flood watch** means that a flash flood is possible; watch out! Stay alert, be smart, and be prepared. Watch out for heavy storms and get ready to act if a flash flood occurs. A **flash flood warning** means that a flash flood is happening or going to happen soon. Stay away from rivers and streams and any other place where water can overflow and cause flooding problems. Examples of these other places are ditches and culverts, city streets near storm drains, irrigation and drainage ditches, and any other waterway near where you live or play. A flash flood can happen very quickly and, in most cases, will go away just as quickly. A **flood warning** is mostly for larger rivers and streams where the water reacts more slowly and the flooding lasts over a longer period of time.

During a flood emergency, don't panic! That only causes more problems. Move to higher ground immediately if you are in the path of the flood. If you are outdoors, leave everything and run! A flash flood can pick up cars, campers, vans, and recreational vehicles and roll them. It can move huge boulders, uproot trees and carry them downstream, wash out roads, and tumble bridges like little toys.

## **Here's what you can do before the flood:**

- ◆ Ask your parents if your house is in a flood plain. If it is, find out where the nearest creek, stream, or river is to your home and where you play.
- ◆ Assemble a disaster supplies kit with your family. This kit should contain a first aid kit, canned food and a can opener, bottled water, rubber boots, rubber gloves, a battery-powered radio, a NOAA Weather Radio, a flashlight, and extra batteries.
- ◆ Store drinking water in clean bathtubs and in various containers. Water service may be interrupted.

## **Here's what you should do during the flood:**

- ◆ Avoid those areas that are already flooded. If you come upon a flowing stream, do not walk through the water if it is above your ankles. Turn around and go another way. The water could knock you down and the current could sweep you downstream.
- ◆ If you are in a car with your parents or other adults, ask them to please not drive over a flooded road, since no one knows for sure how deep the water is. The road may be washed out under the water. You do not want to be stranded in your car in a flood. Cars can be lifted off the ground and carried away in as little as two feet of water. Be especially careful at night when it's more difficult to recognize the dangers.
- ◆ **Never, never, never** play around flood waters. You could easily slip and fall into the water and be swept downstream. You could also get trapped by rapidly rising water and be in danger before you could even react.

## **Here's what you should do after the flood:**

- ◆ Do not visit disaster areas. You may be in the way of rescue or emergency professionals who are trying to help people.
- ◆ Boil water from the faucet before using it for drinking or cooking.
- ◆ Remember that the Red Cross provides first aid, food, clothing, and shelter in case the flood has damaged your home.
- ◆ Do not use any electrical equipment if it is wet. Have your parents or another adult check all of the electrical appliances, including your televisions, radios, or clocks if they got wet. This is a good rule anytime anything electrical gets wet.

Remember, kids, it is very important that you be smart and know what to do in severe weather emergencies. These include thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, high winds, hail, and heavy snow and blizzards, as well as floods and flash floods. Have an emergency action plan ready and help your family survive these severe weather events. While you're making action plans, don't forget a fire safety plan and an earthquake safety plan for your home. Having these plans and knowing what to do could mean the difference between life and death to you or to someone you love.



**Answer:**

**Ignorance** means that you just don't know something. It's important to learn about weather that can hurt you so you won't be ignorant of the dangers.

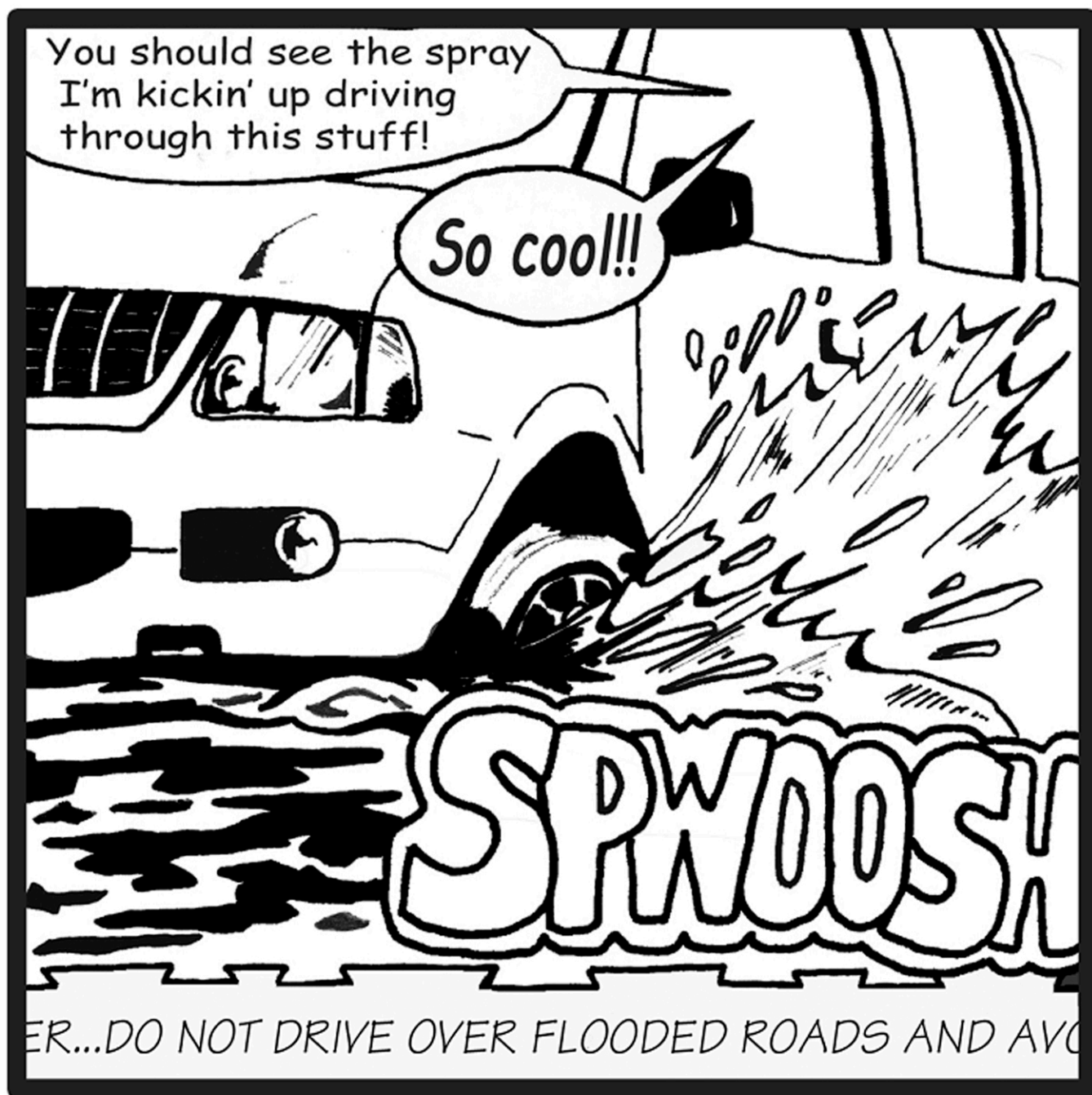
**Apathy** means that you just don't care. Some people know about the dangers of weather, but they don't care or they think nothing could happen to them.

**Consequences** are results of decisions you make or actions you take. Some consequences are good and some are bad. It's important to make good decisions and to behave well so the consequences will be good. This young driver is headed for bad consequences because he's making bad decisions.



**Question:**

1. Can you name some of the things that might be distracting this driver?
2. How do you find out if the National Weather Service has issued a warning in your area?



**Answer:**

1. There are many different things that could be harmful distractions to this driver. Discuss these with your parents, teachers, and friends and decide for yourself.

2. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, the best source for weather information, warnings, watches, and forecasts in your area. Also listen to commercial radio, watch commercial or cable tv, or get the information from the internet ([www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)).



**Question:**

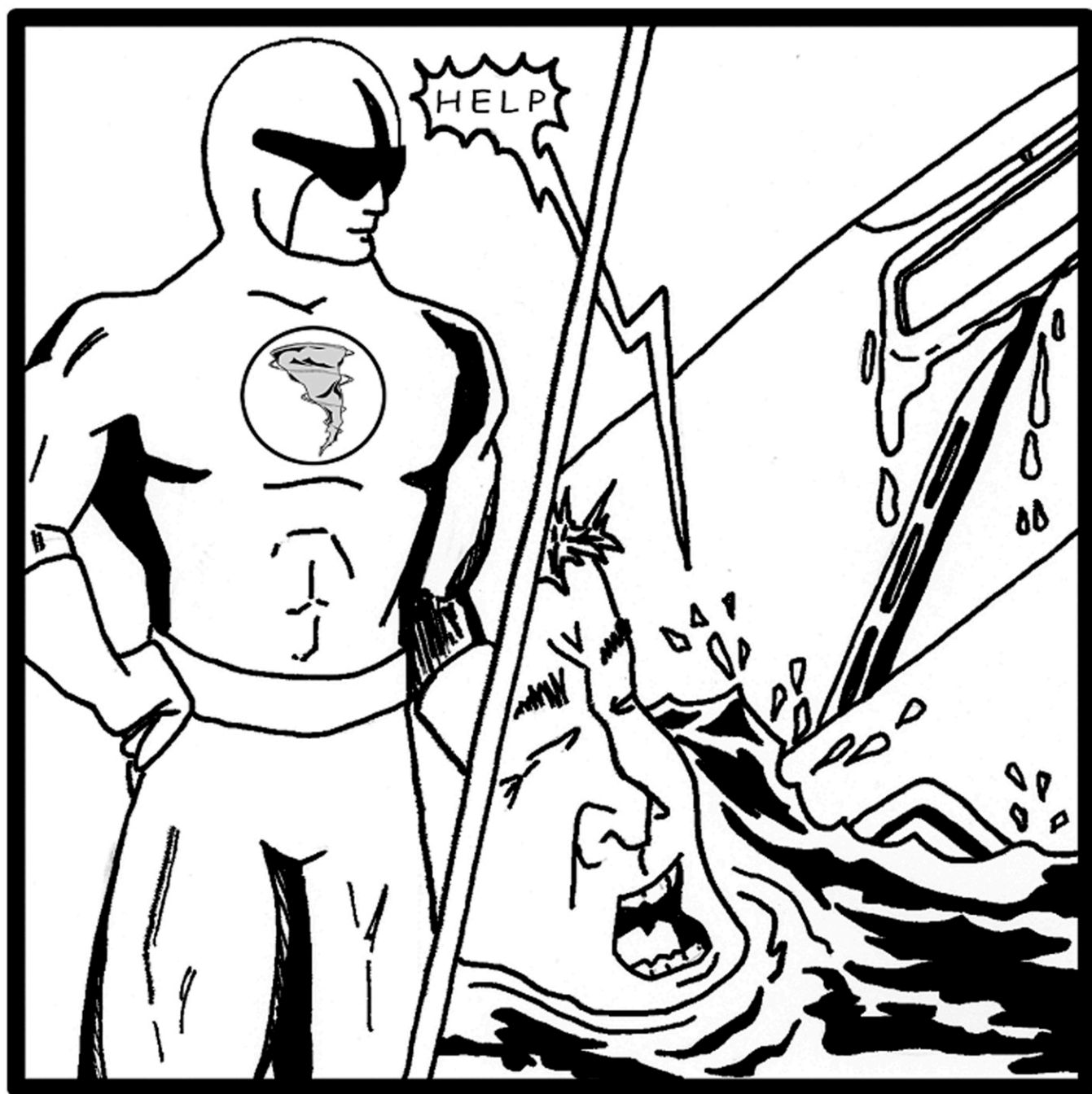
1. How many feet of water is needed to lift an ordinary car off the road?
2. How deep can the flood water be before it's too dangerous to walk through?



**Answer:**

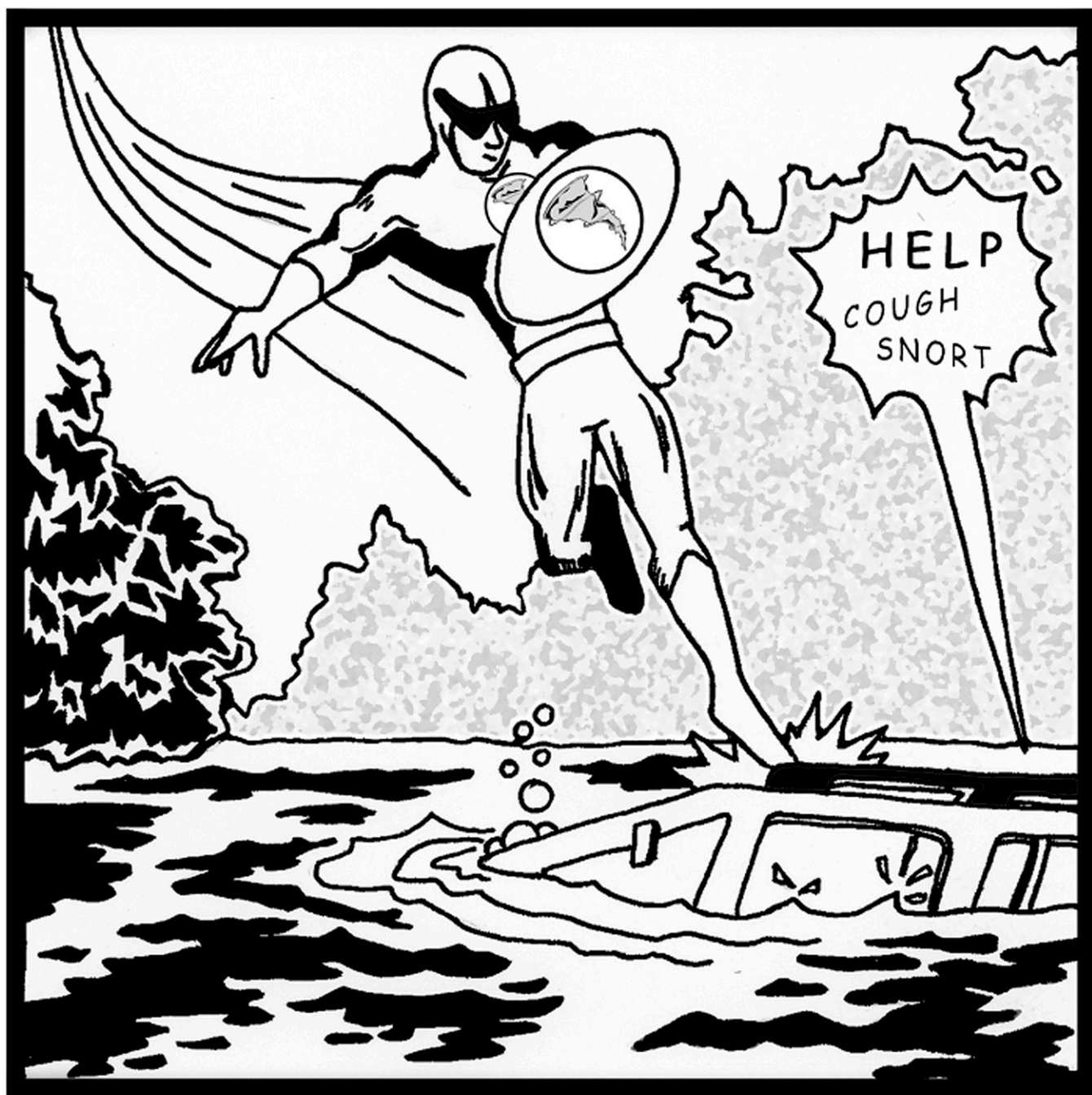
1. Only 2 feet of water is needed to lift a 4000-pound car off the road. With some cars, that's just barely to the top of the tires.

2. Six inches or less ! In fast-moving water, it takes only 6 inches or less to knock you off your feet and into the flood.



**Question:**

1. If you are stuck in your car in a flood, like this poor driver is, what is the best thing to do?
2. True or False: A flash flood warning means that a flash flood might happen sometime today.



**Answer:**

1. Get out of your car immediately and swim to higher ground. It is very dangerous to stay inside the car. Your car will flip over and you will be pinned inside or some debris may hit you and hurt you even more.
2. False: A flash flood warning means that a flash flood is happening now or will happen very soon. A watch means that a flash flood may happen sometime during the watch time, usually from 12 to 24 hours.



**Question:**

1. Who do you think are real weather rangers who tell you about flood dangers where you live?
2. Who do you think are real weather rangers where you live who save people in floods?