

# FACTS

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## Be Informed

- Motor vehicle crashes in canals are the third leading cause of drowning in Palm Beach County. (FL Medical Examiner, District 15)
- You must **ESCAPE WITHIN the 1<sup>st</sup> MINUTE** after a car enters the water!
- Float times of a vehicle can vary between 30 seconds and a few minutes depending on several factors such as the vehicle's weight, design, seals, and structural damage on impact.
- Electric windows may work for a short period of time and should be opened as quickly as possible.
- Don't take anything heavy or unnecessary with you as you escape. In this situation, your life and the lives of those around you are most important.

### LAMINATED vs. TEMPERED WINDOW GLASS

- Hammer-type devices and spring-loaded window punches are NOT effective on laminated glass. Most front car windshields are made of laminated glass.
- If glass is tempered, use an escape tool in a bottom corner of a side window for breakage.
- Check your vehicle's manual or contact your car's manufacturer to determine vehicle's glass type.



**Disclaimer:** This brochure has been created to provide basic knowledge of how to escape a sinking vehicle. The Drowning Prevention Coalition cannot predict different scenarios that can occur. Palm Beach County does not endorse any particular escape or rescue tool. Consumers must do their own research to determine what best fits their needs.



### Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County

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### Mission

To prevent drowning, near-drowning and other water-related incidents in Palm Beach County by educating residents on water safety and basic rescue techniques.

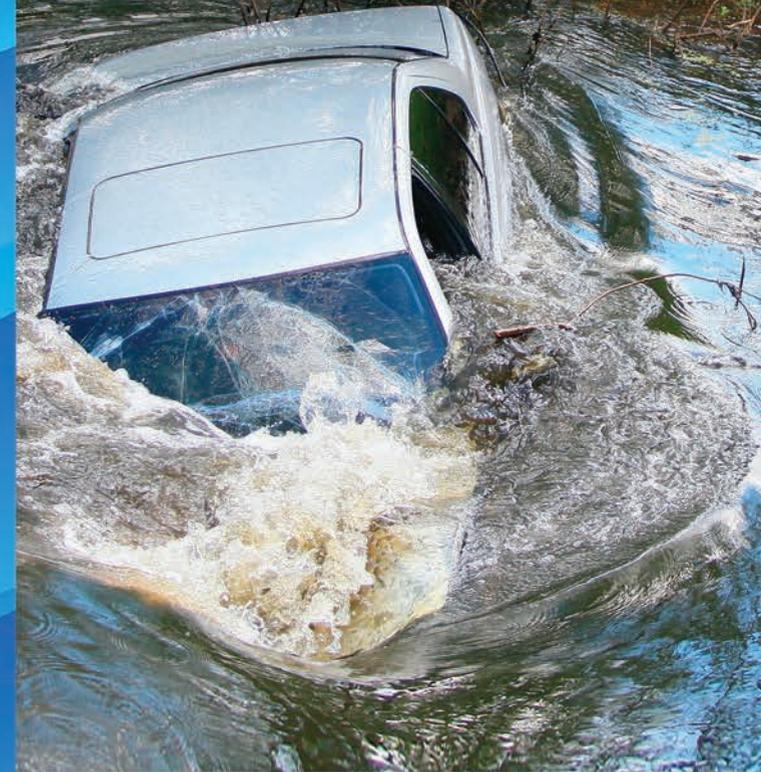
The Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County is partially funded by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County. The Coalition is directly managed by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

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# DO YOU KNOW HOW TO ESCAPE A SINKING VEHICLE?



**Drowning Prevention  
Coalition  
of Palm Beach County**

# ESCAPE IMMEDIATELY

# 1

*Don't Waste Time*



**STAY CALM**



**NO PHONE**



**SEATBELT OFF**

**Remove or Cut:** yours and your children's who can't help themselves.



**WINDOWS**

**Open Manually or Break:** use an escape tool in a bottom corner of a side window for breakage.



**CHILDREN**

**Undo Seatbelts:** capable children should immediately remove their seatbelt and exit through the nearest open window.



**GET OUT!!**

**Children First:** push them out ahead of you and exit behind them.

# HAVE AN ESCAPE TOOL AVAILABLE

# 2

*Some Common Tools*



- Having a tool may increase your chances of survival.
- Make sure you have a certified and tested escape tool.
- Tools can be bought in hardware stores, auto supply shops, and online.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions on how to properly handle the tool and learn how to use it in advance.
- Keep tool within reach (i.e. on keychain, mounted on driver's side door, or in a covered center console).  
**Not in the glove box or trunk!**

**REHEARSE EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND SURVIVAL PROCEDURES WITH YOUR PASSENGER(S) AND HAVE AN ESCAPE TOOL READILY AVAILABLE.**

# IF YOU CAN'T ESCAPE BEFORE THE CAR SINKS

# 3

*Worst Case Scenario*



**STAY CALM**



**SEATBELT OFF**

Remove or Cut.



**GET IN THE BACK**

To breathe longer.



**HAND ON DOOR HANDLE**

Continually pull the handle even as the water rises. The door should open once pressure is equalized.



**TAKE A DEEP BREATH**



**GET OUT!!**