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From Denver Public Works and Parks & Recreation:

SUMMER RAINSTORM UPDATE FOR JUNE 2, 2009
Please be safe on Denver's streets and trails this season

Summer rainstorms in Denver are common throughout June, July and August. Please remember that floods caused by the rain can occur anywhere, with floodwaters rising gradually or flash floods striking suddenly. Water's powerful force can easily overtake vehicles caught in a flood. Following are Denver's current street and urban trail conditions, as well as some important safety tips to remember during Denver's rainy season.

Street Conditions – June 2:

- Denver Wastewater crews proactively inspected the City's major basins on the roadway in advance of rain falling. However, Denver streets still occasionally experience some standing water from heavy rain.
- Crews are checking inlets and drains on main streets for any obstructions and responding to 3-1-1 calls.
- When rain falls quickly, it does take some time for the water to drain off the street due to the volume. There have been no reports of significant flooding, only calls about "ponding" or water accumulating in low-lying areas.

Safety tips for driving in heavy rain:

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- One foot of water will float most vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can sweep away most vehicles — including SUVs and pick-ups.
- If you must drive through water, drive slowly and steadily.
- Avoid driving in water that downed electrical or power lines have fallen in — electric current passes through water easily.
- Stay off the telephone unless you must report severe injuries.

Park Trail Conditions – June 2:

Denver is experiencing higher than normal water levels in our rivers and streams as a result of the recent weather conditions, and many of our urban trails are flooding to varying degrees.

Safety tips for walking or cycling on urban trails:

- When rain is falling, it's best not to walk or bike near a river or stream, even on Denver's paved urban bike and walking trails; water flow can quickly increase and flooding can occur without notice.
- NEVER take shelter in a culvert or in an enclosed space, especially in low elevations by rivers and streams. Always go to higher ground out of the flow of water.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can cause a person to fall.
- If lightning is present, do not stand under or near an isolated tree or group of trees.
- Never allow children to play around streams, drainage ditches or viaducts, storm drains or flooded areas.

What residents can do to help:

- Please ensure that your trash or recycling container is not in the gutter flow line or obstructing a drain or inlet. Do not put lawn clippings or yard debris in the gutter.
- Pick up litter, branches or any other loose items that could potentially interfere with storm water drainage on the street.

To report significant flooding issues in Denver, please call 311.

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