



Johnson County Fire Protection District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Saturday, August 1, 2020

Water Rescues Throughout Johnson County

WARRENSBURG, MO – The Johnson County Fire Protection District’s Water Rescue Division responded to multiple requests for water rescues throughout Johnson County following nearly 10 inches of rain in one night caused wide-spread flooding. Requests for water rescues began at 6:05 AM on July 31, 2020 and have continued into the afternoon of August 1, 2020. JCFPD has responded to seven separate water rescue incidents and performed eight total rescues from floodwater.

The following is a summary of responses:

- 6:05 AM 7/31/2020 – 1800 block SW 2 Highway. JCFPD was cancelled while responding due to initial arriving personnel removing multiple victims from their vehicle in floodwater.
- 8:56 AM 7/31/2020 – 200 block SW 200 Road. One person was rescued from their vehicle after driving through high water, making it to a high bridge halfway through the flooded area, and being unable to continue. One boat was deployed for this rescue.
- 9:19 AM 7/31/2020 – 300 block NW 501 Road. One person was rescued from their vehicle after their vehicle stalled submerged in floodwater. One boat and a rescue swimmer were deployed for this rescue.
- 6:16 PM 7/31/2020 – 700 block NE E Highway. One person was rescued from their vehicle after their vehicle stalled submerged in floodwater. Personnel entered the water to perform this rescue.
- 8:42 PM 7/31/2020 – 100 block NE 175 Road. JCFPD was cancelled while responding after the occupant of a stalled vehicle found their own way to safety.
- 10:25 PM 7/31/2020 – 200 block NE 151 Road. Four people were rescued from floodwater after their vehicle was washed off the roadway and down the flooded river. JCFPD deployed a boat and safely recovered all four individuals as they were clinging to trees approximately 150 yards downriver from the roadway. Video from this incident is available on the District’s Facebook page.
- 2:41 PM 8/1/2020 – 1000 block NE 1075 Road. One person was rescued from floodwater after their vehicle became submerged in floodwater. One boat was deployed for this rescue. JCFPD performed this rescue with assistance from the Concordia Fire Protection District.

“The common denominator in all of these incidents was people attempting to drive through flooded roadways,” said Captain Joe Jennings. “The principle of turning around and not drowning comes into play here. Someone is not only risking their own life when attempting to drive through floodwater, but our water rescue personnel are then placed into danger when they respond. We cannot stress to everyone enough to ‘turn around don’t drown.’”

More information about the Johnson County Fire Protection District can be found online at www.jcfpd.net or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/johnsoncountypfd.