

## **Swatara Township Stormwater Authority**



What is Stormwater? Stormwater is water that originates from precipitation, including not only rain, but snow and hail as well. This water collects on the grass and pavement and eventually finds its way to a body of water or a drain. During its travel, stormwater will pick up chemicals from fuel and salt on the road, in addition to common yard practices of fertilizer and weed killer use. The federal government has tasked each state, and therefore county and township, to control just how much of these substances enter our environment and lower the levels as much as we can.

## **Spotlight Topic: Severe Weather & Flash Flooding**

Prepare • Shelter • Recovery



3 inches of rain within an hour - Spring Creek at Bonnymead Ave & Rutherford St, August 11, 2021

As we enjoy the warmth of spring and prepare for summer fun, the risk for dangerous weather like thunderstorms increases. Our Township is home to residents and businesses alike as well as highways, all of which create paved surfaces. Less soil and grass exposure can lead to flash flooding during intense short-lived storms and long duration. We have the added bonus of our beautiful waterways that tend to flood in these conditions too and these factors unfortunately lead to property damage and

danger. A car can be carried away in two feet of water and 90% of all U.S. disasters, including all 50 states, involve flooding (DoSomething.org). There are several steps we can take together to keep our community safe and prepare for the inevitable storms this season.

What can we do? The most important way to stay safe during severe weather is to stay informed. Watch out for dark clouds, check your local weather, and create a safety plan. You might notice Stormwater and Highway staff making their way around the Township before a storm too – we check on drainage in low lying areas and keep an eye out for clogged inlets. Clearing out inlets and swales allows rushing rainwater to drain from the road faster and possibly lowering the impact of a flash flood. If you see a clogged inlet or flooding, please report it to the Stormwater Authority to allow for inspection and repair.





If you see a clogged inlet, please report to us, or remove debris

Images: Philadelphia Water Dept

## **ATTENTION**

We are now called the Stormwater
Authority and we are separate from
Sewer. Please remember this when
making bill payments to ensure your
payment is applied to the correct
account! Thank You