



It's Low Tech and Low Price, But a Rain Gauge Can Save Your Life!

What does a smoke detector do?

It warns us of fires. It protects us. It can save our lives.

Many people have smoke detectors. Maybe you do.

What does a rain gauge do?

It tells us how much rain has fallen.

A rain gauge can also warn us of high water, of a flood.

A rain gauge protects us.

A rain gauge can save our lives. Do you have a rain gauge?

2" of rain in 1 day in your rain gauge means that the low water crossings nearby are **FILLING UP**.

3" or more of rain in 1 day in your gauge might mean **FLASH FLOODS!** Not for certain but very possibly.

Mark your rain gauge like this:

A yellow mark on the 2" level.* That is like a yellow traffic light. It reminds you to be careful.

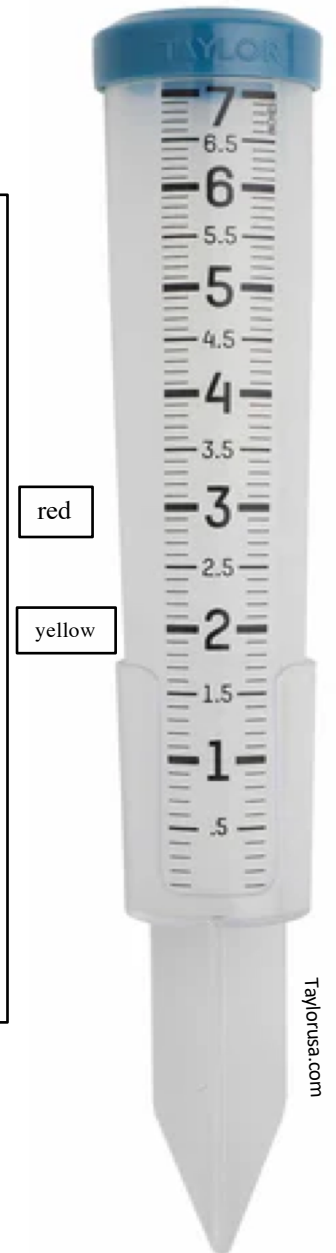
A red line on the 3" level.* That is like a red traffic light. It reminds you to **STOP** and check on road conditions **BEFORE** you drive.

Flooded roads are very dangerous to vehicles and people. You may need to **STAY HOME** to **STAY SAFE**. If it is raining hard after 3 or 4 pm, stay home. You cannot see water on the road after dark.

A rain gauge that holds 4" or 5" is big enough for home use. Put the gauge where it is open to the sky. It can be on an apartment balcony as long as it is open to the sky. Put it where it is convenient for you to check it.

Check it every day. Empty it if it has rain in it. Write the amount of rain in the gauge on a calendar even if the amount is 0 (zero).

*To mark your gauge, you could use some kind of tape and color it with markers. Then stick the tape on the gauge.



red

yellow

TaylorUSA.com



© Camille Phillips 2025
Camille.phillips2@gmail.com

To find out about road conditions:

Drivetexas.org. 1-800-452-9292

Call the local non-emergency number for first responders.

In San Marcos 512-753-2108.

Hays County sheriff dispatcher 512-393-7896.

The websites for Austin TV stations often have information about closed roads and/or closed low water crossings in Hays County.



To find out about the weather:

National Weather Service www.weather.gov

Local weather forecast from 3rd parties: www.wunderground.com

The Weather channel www.weather.com

The Austin TV stations have weather information.



To receive text alerts and consult official information:

Sign up with www.warncentraltexas.org to get text alerts on your phone.

Check www.haysinformed.com to find out about emergencies in Hays County.

To have a backup communication method:

Pro - Get a CB radio in case the cell towers go down. CB radios start at \$40.

Pro – If you love someone ill or elderly, get them a CB radio, too.

Pro - Many take batteries, so a power outage doesn't affect them. Some are small.

Pro - Channel 9 is for emergencies and is monitored by first responders.

Con - CB radios have a limited range and broadcast publicly.

To recognize a low water crossing:

It's on a road, and we have three main types.

1. At the bottom of a slope, for example, water flowing down a hill.
The water can get deep at the bottom of the slope if the drainage is poor.
2. A low bridge over a stream where water can come up over the bridge.
3. A road close to a stream or river that can overflow onto the road.

Many low water crossings are not marked.

Some have a yellow sign that says "Road may flood."

Some have a sign marked in feet to show how deep the water is on the road.

