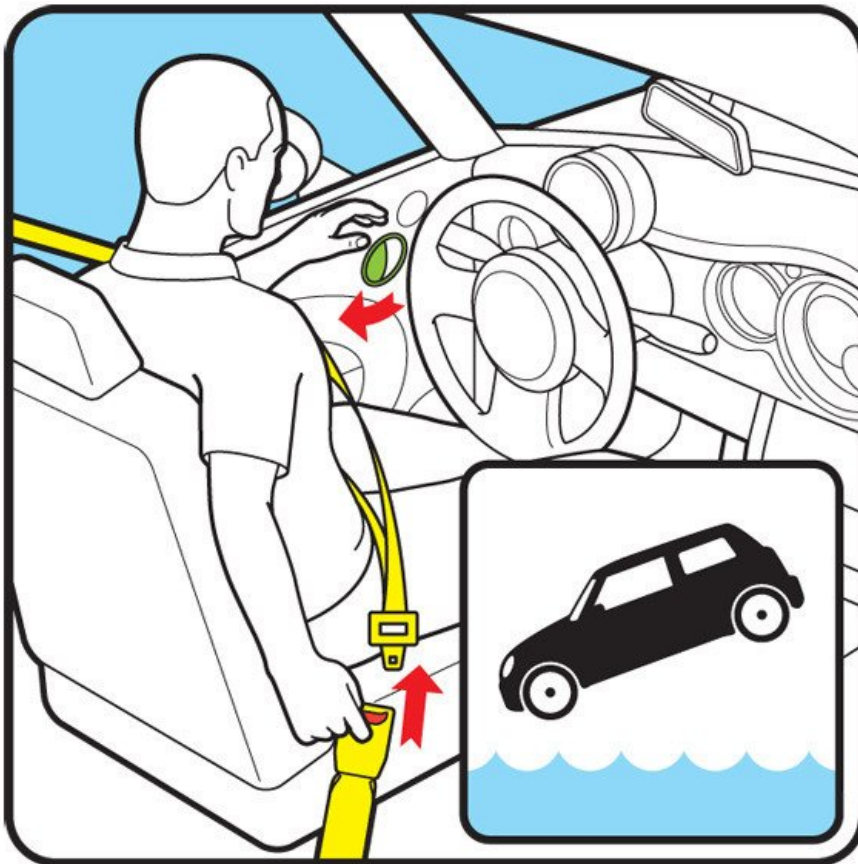


# GNOEC's Guide On How To Escape a Sinking Vehicle

## Step One

Staying calm is the number one priority. In most water crashes, a vehicle will float for a period of time before the weight of the engine pulls the vehicle under water.

- **Unbuckle your seatbelt**
- **Locate door handle and open**
- **If the door does not open, go to step two**

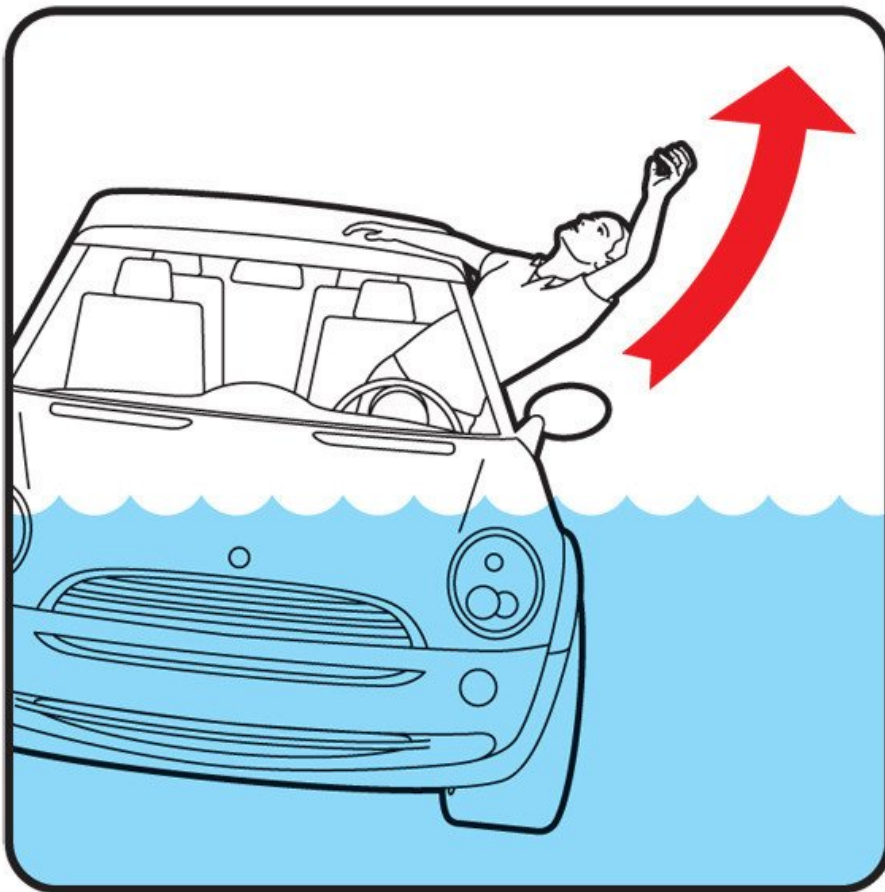


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## Step Two

As a vehicle begins to fill with water, the first exit is the window. Don't worry if the window is electric. Experts say a power window usually keeps working under water for some time.

- **Lower the window**
- **Escape through the window**
- **If window does not open go to step three**



# GNOEC's Guide On

## How To Escape a Sinking Vehicle

### Step three

If you are unable to escape through the window, sit calmly and wait for the water to fill the vehicle. When a vehicle enters the water, it can be hard to open the door because of the water pressure pushing on it from outside. Once the car is filled, the pressure equalizes, which makes the door easier to open.

- **As the water is filling the vehicle, take a deep breath**
- **Escape by kicking or breaking a side window or simply open a door as pressure equalizes**
- **If you are with a child, get them out first**



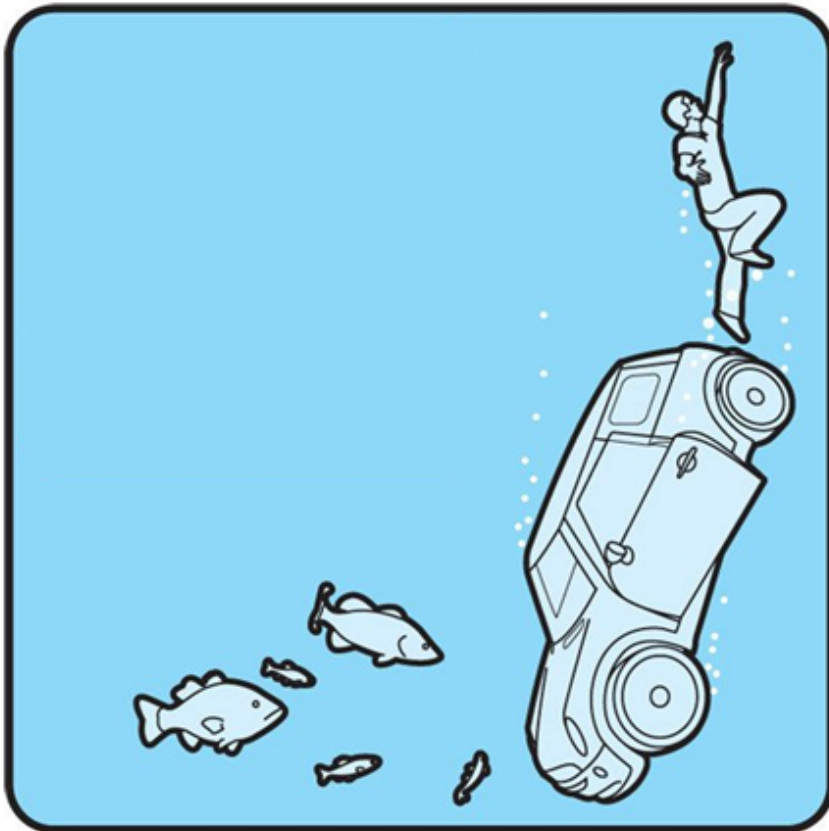
### Step four

# GNOEC's Guide On

## How To Escape a Sinking Vehicle

Staying calm is the number one priority. Once free of the vehicle swim to the surface as quickly as possible. If you do not know which way is up, follow the light or air bubbles or just allow your body's buoyancy to carry you up.

- **Swim to the surface**
- **Rescue personnel will pick you up in a matter of minutes**



**TIPS:**

# GNOEC's Guide On

## How To Escape a Sinking Vehicle

- ❖ Have a plan before anything happens. Anticipation and planning are critical to surviving an emergency such as this.
- ❖ Remain calm. Panicking will reduce your energy and use up precious air.
- ❖ Brace yourself for impact. Place both hands on the steering wheel in the “nine and three” position in case the airbag is deployed. Keeping your hands in this position will limit injury,
- ❖ Your clothing and other heavy objects in your pocket can make you sink. Be prepared to remove your shoes and other heavy outer clothing (such as jackets, boots, etc.).
- ❖ Do not turn off your headlights. The electronics are usually waterproof and may aid rescue personnel to finding your position.
- ❖ Unbuckle children starting with the oldest first.
- ❖ If you are not able to open a window fully, then you will have to break it.
- ❖ Do not try to break the windshield. It is made from unbreakable safety glass. The side and rear windows are the best option.
- ❖ You can purchase a device that can easily break a window in case of emergency. It also cuts a seatbelt. The GNOEC sells a RES-Q-Me in the tag office for \$12.00.
- ❖ If you do not have a device, you can use objects in your vehicle. Here are some examples:
  - Your feet
  - High heels
  - Umbrella
  - Hammer
  - The metal part of a head rest
  - Large camera
  - Laptop
- ❖ It takes 60 to 120 seconds for a car to fill with water. While there is still air in the vehicle, take slow deep breaths and focus on what you need to do.

# GNOEC's Guide On

## How To Escape a Sinking Vehicle

- ❖ Swim to the surface as quickly as possible.
- ❖ Once you have reached the surface, wait for emergency personnel to rescue you. The GNOEC trains personnel every year in life saving procedures.

*\*Images are from Car and Driver*