

# A Proposal for a National Storm Drain Safety Campaign



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August 2000, Denver CO: Firefighter dies in storm drain



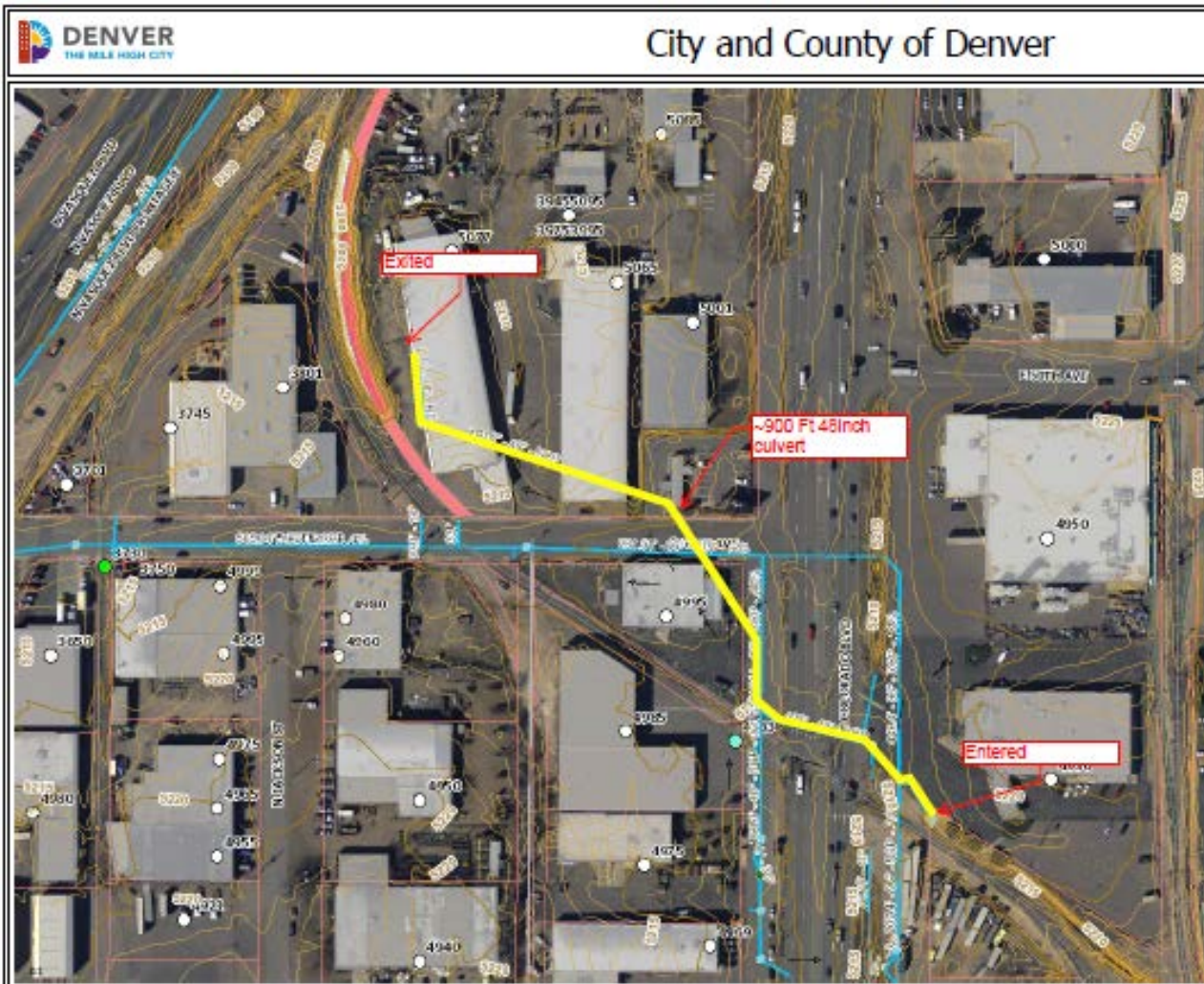
## Firefighter's drowning prompts safety review

By Kevin Simpson  
Denver Post Staff Writer

**August 26, 2000** - Water rescue experts nationwide contend that no amount of training or equipment could have saved Denver firefighter Robert Crump, whose spontaneous attempt to rescue a woman in swirling floodwaters cost him his life.

On Aug. 17, the 37-year-old Crump and fellow firefighter Will Roberts were directing traffic during a flash flood at East 50th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard when they saw Loretta Martinez stranded and clinging to a metal post. The two waded into the intersection to retrieve the 45-year-old woman, but Crump was pulled under by the swirling waters of a 12-foot-deep culvert. Roberts guided Martinez to safety and then, with a cable tied around his waist, tried in vain to locate his partner.

# August 2000, Denver CO: Firefighter dies in storm drain





# May 2014, Cedar Rapids IA: Teen dies in storm drain



Water flows into a storm drain near Arthur Elementary School in Cedar Rapids on Tuesday, July 1, 2014, as the search continues for 17-year old Logan Blake. Blake and David Bliss, also 17, were swept into the storm drain Monday night, and Bliss emerged in Cedar Lake. (Liz Martin/The Gazette-KCRG)

# May 2014, Cedar Rapids IA: Teen dies in storm drain





# May 2015, Claremore OK: Firefighter dies in storm drain



Mike Simons

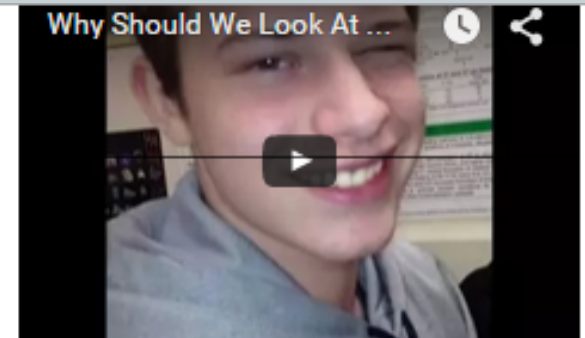
In this May 25, 2015 photo is the box culvert where Claremore Fire Department Capt. Jason Farley was trapped and drowned on Saturday in Tulsa, Okla. Farley and another firefighter who tried to rescue him were pulled into the drain pipe. The other firefighter traveled 200 yards until he was ejected from the pipe and survived the near-drowning, but Farley got caught inside and died. His drowning highlights the persistent dangers posed by storm drains that help protect neighborhoods during flash flooding but can suck in unsuspecting residents and emergency workers. (Mike Simons/Tulsa World via AP) KOTV OUT; KJRH OUT; KTUL OUT; KOKI OUT;

# https://projectstormdrainsafety.org



**Project Storm Drain Safety**

No more senseless deaths



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## Our Mission

- Create national awareness of the danger posed by storm drain inlets by educating parents on how to recognize when storm drain inlets pose a threat.
- Further enhance community understanding by developing a curriculum helping children and adults recognize deadly areas in their neighborhoods.
- Upon notification of unsafe storm drain inlets, we will work with civic organizations and community leaders to equip the storm drains with appropriate safety features.

Donate



### IN THE NEWS

[Mark Blake's River to River interview on Iowa Public Radio](#)

July 19, 2015

[Logan Blake's Passing: One Year Later](#) July 2, 2015

[Mark Blake Seeks to Prevent Further Tragedies](#) June 30, 2015



# Suggested Culvert Safety Criteria



Based on investigations of culvert deaths, safety grating is recommended when any of the following conditions are or will be true:

1. It is not possible to “see daylight” from one end of the culvert to the other, and/or
2. The culvert is less than 42 inches in diameter, and/or
3. Conditions within the culvert (bends, obstructions, vertical drops) or at the outlet are likely to trap or injure a person.



# Suggested Culvert Safety Criteria



Exceptions to the above criteria consist of street curb-opening inlets and driveway culverts that are subject to a ponding depth of no more than 12 inches at the flow-line and culvert entrances that are made inaccessible to the public by fencing.

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The proposed two-pronged approach

1. A storm drain safety public awareness campaign that is modeled after the successful “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” and “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors” programs
2. A national guidance document to help communities evaluate the safety of existing and proposed culverts and storm drain inlets to determine whether safety measures are warranted, and to provide design guidance for safety grating

# A Proposal for a National Storm Drain Safety Campaign



\$100,000 in local funding has been pledged as matching funds toward leveraging federal sponsorship of this project.

Please consider joining this effort.

Contact Ken MacKenzie  
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